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'Grisly decisions' on spending bids

Tax cuts are in danger, Major warns

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

CABINET ministers have been warned by the Chancellor and by Mr Norman Lamont, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, that if they press too hard for their own spending budgets they will destroy the Government's last chance of making tax cuts before the next election.

Spending bids do not have to be sent to the Treasury for at least another month, but as the skirmishing began over next year's public spending round, Mr Lamont publicly underlined a warning given to the Cabinet in private by Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

He said in an interview to the BBC's *On the Record*: "The prospect of tax cuts at the moment does not look very good. These things are always uncertain but we have very little room for manoeuvre."

Mr Lamont confirmed only 10 days ago, during the second reading debate of the Finance Bill, that it remained the Government's objective to bring the standard rate of taxation down to 20p in the pound, and Mrs Thatcher insisted at the Scottish Conservative conference in Aberdeen on Saturday that tax-cutting was still the aim.

It has emerged, however, that Mr Major recently warned his colleagues, during a special presentation to the Cabinet, of "grisly decisions" ahead on the public spending round. Mr Lamont made it

plain yesterday that if he were to give way to backbench demands for large sums to be devoted to reducing poll tax bills, the price would be high in terms of other spending plans.

"It is a competing claim that goes alongside health, education, transport, everything else. If colleagues wanted to argue for a very, very generous settlement for local government, that would mean there wouldn't be money for those other areas. It is directly in competition."

In effect, ministers have been told that cherished plans for improving the quality of life in the run-up to the election, by providing better commuted services, cutting teacher shortages with the introduction of better pay and easing in health service reforms with a cash boost will mostly go by the board.

Mr Major has told colleagues that he is determined to stick with the fiscal surplus of £7 billion planned for next year and the £3 billion surplus allowed for the year after and he will not contemplate going back to a borrowing requirement. He is also understood to have indicated that the reduction of inflation will be a longer and harder task than once contemplated.

The Chancellor and Mr Lamont have told spending ministers that they will not be compensated for the fact that the Treasury underestimated the inflation figure, now at 9.4 per cent, in setting this year's spending plans.

Mr Lamont said yesterday: "Inflation cannot be accommodated. If you wish to defeat inflation, you have to strive not to accommodate it in spending plans." As a result public-sector wage settlements will, in some cases, have to be below the rate of inflation, an effective pay cut.

Other ministers are expecting Mr King to be forced to make some contribution to the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre. One said yesterday it would be "unforgivable" if Mr King's budget was not trimmed.

Even allowing for the inevitable manoeuvring at this stage of the game, the pressures building up for this year's spending round are enormous.

Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, is seeking £3.4 billion for local government spending, and Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, is said to be asking for an extra £3 billion to pay for the staff and technology required to introduce health service reforms and to boost ailing hospital building programmes.

A statement issued by Mr James Bussey, the FAA's Administrator, insisted the reassignment and the report were not connected, although Mr Samuel Skinner, the Transportation Secretary with ultimate responsibility for the FAA, received the commission's findings last week.

The commission, comprising two senators, two congressmen and three independent experts, was created by President Bush last August after intense pressure from relatives of the Lockerbie victims who have consistently demanded Mr Salazar's resignation, claiming serious security lapses.

In an April hearing, the commission was told that unaccompanied luggage put aboard planes at Frankfurt airport, where the bomb was planted, had been X-rayed only, not hand-searched.

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Pressure on Haughey over extradition

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

MR CHARLES Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, is coming under increasing pressure to change Ireland's extradition laws.

In a speech seen as part of a campaign by Ireland's opposition parties to force a change in the extradition laws, Mr Des O'Malley, leader of the Progressive Democrats, told his party conference on Saturday that decent people were appalled at the spectacle of convicted IRA members being freed by the Irish Supreme

Court. Pressure on Mr Haughey was increased yesterday by a call by Mr Alan Dukes, the Fine Gael leader, for an all-party summit on extradition aimed at closing any loopholes.

The campaign for change comes after the Supreme Court freed two convicted IRA men wanted in Northern Ireland and allowed a third, also wanted in Ulster, to go free.

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INSIDE

Employment outlook bleak

High street sales unexpectedly recovered in April, according to a CBI survey. But the CBI says the potentially embarrassing news for the Chancellor was probably due to Easter being late.

The motor and building trades reported sharp falls in business and the Government is being warned of an increasingly bleak unemployment outlook.

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EMS hint

Mrs Thatcher has given a clear hint that Britain will become a full member of the European Monetary System before the next general election.

Page 2

Hong Kong fear

Hong Kong faces recession if the United States ends China's "favoured nation" trading status, the colony's Assistant Director of Trade and Industry has warned.

Page 11

New exam call

A new examination at 17 to bridge the gap between the GCSE and existing A-levels, is likely to be called for at a special meeting of the Headmasters Conference.

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Rising sons

There are signs of change in Japanese society as young people begin to question the virtues of a life that is all work and no play, a Special Report on Japan explains.

Pages 28-31

Shock defeat

Martina Navratilova was surprisingly beaten 6-1, 6-1 by Monica Seles, aged 16, in the final of the Italian tennis championships.

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Patrese wins

Riccardo Patrese won the San Marino Grand Prix for the British-based Canon-Williams team. Nigel Mansell, driving a Ferrari, retired from the race in the 39th lap.

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From Michael McCarthy
Environment Correspondent
Bergen

THE uncomfortable question of whaling emerged last night to puncture the environmental reputation the Norwegian Government has been hoping to draw from its international conference on sustainable development, or "green growth".

Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former Norwegian Prime Minister, was clearly rattled when the subject was raised with her by journalists at the 34-nation gathering, of which she is the moving spirit, and at which it has been expected that Britain and the United States will be pilloried by some countries, including Norway, for their alleged blocking of moves to combat the greenhouse effect.

Mrs Brundtland side-stepped ques-

tions as to whether she would support a resumption of commercial whaling and whether her country's hosting such a big environmental conference while continuing to kill whales for "scientific" purposes was not hypocritical. She gave an impassioned defence of Norway's current whaling programme, which has drawn fierce criticism from many other countries.

Last night Britain's delegation head at the conference in Bergen, Mr David Trippier, the Minister of State for the Environment, criticized Norway's whaling programme, saying he agreed with the International Whaling Commission that it was "unsatisfactory".

Norway intends to ask the commission at its July meeting in The Netherlands to take the minke whale off the protected list, a move that implies a resumption of commercial whaling.

which since 1986 has been the subject of an international moratorium. Despite the ban, however, Norway, Iceland and Japan have continued killing some whales, saying the kills are for scientific purposes, to enable them to get a true picture of the size of stocks. The "scientific" programmes have been widely criticized as purely hypocritical.

Yesterday Mrs Brundtland, leader of Norway's Labour opposition, insisted that the Norwegian programme was essential. She said: "We need to know the relationship between different types of important fish stocks for human consumption, seals, and whales, and we are not in Norway going to give up our conviction that we need to know what we are doing... I think there are certain stocks such as the minke whale which are much bigger than what has been the assessment previously."

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D What's the difference between your loan and a standard loan?		
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A Anything you like, including clearing existing credit.		
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G What's the difference between your loan and a standard loan?		
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Bowler salute: Heavily decorated members of the Combined Cavalry "Old Comrades" greet each other at the sixty-sixth annual memorial service and parade in Hyde Park, London, yesterday

Angry Iliescu rejects British protest

From Christopher Walker
Bucharest

WITH less than a week to go before Romania's first free election in 53 years, President Iliescu, a former senior member of the now defunct Communist Party and the leading candidate for president, has angrily dismissed attempts by Britain to reduce intimidation by his ruling National Salvation Front.

At a press conference chaotic and ill-tempered as the campaign, Mr Iliescu, the interim President, dismissed claims of organized violence against the main right-wing opposition parties as exaggerated, and rejected moves by Britain, which last Friday called in Romania's Ambassador to voice concern about the conduct of the poll.

"No one has the right to interfere in our business," Mr Iliescu said as claims of harassment by Front supporters continued to flood in from many regions. "It is our business, not Her Majesty's Government's business to supervise how elections will proceed inside Romania."

Mr Iliescu's rejection of British and American criticism came as his Administration failed in a second attempt to negotiate a peaceful end to the three-week-old anti-communist street protest which has blocked the main boulevard in central Bucharest since April 24.

On Saturday night the crowd swelled to more than 20,000 for the first time. Many speakers demanded Mr Iliescu's resignation. Organizers of a petition to ban all former Communist Party activists from standing for office in three consecutive general elections claimed to have six million signatures.

At his press conference, Mr Iliescu said all political demonstrations were banned in the last three days of the campaign. Asked if the Government would move to enforce the law before the May 20 vote, he said: "We shall see."

His two rivals for the presidency, Mr Ion Ratiu of the National Peasant Party and Mr Radu Campineanu of the National Liberal Party, staged rallies in Bucharest at the weekend at which anti-communism was the common theme. Neither drew a crowd of more than 6,000, which was seen as evidence of their poor organization and the Front's domination of public opinion, assisted by its control of the single television network.

Gypsy power, page 9

UK and Iran moving towards direct talks

By Andrew McEwan, Diplomatic Editor

BRITAIN and Iran are moving towards direct discussions of their differences over the hostages in Beirut, the Iranian "fawa" against Mr Salman Rushdie, and the imprisonment of Mr Roger Cooper.

Tehran has made it clear through indirect contacts that it thinks the time is ripe, while Britain has begun to play down pre-conditions it had set for changing from indirect to direct talks. It is likely that intermediaries will step up to contacts with Tehran, leading to a meeting between British and Iranian diplomats in a neutral country.

Britain and Iran appear to be almost back to where they were in June 1988, when three MPs, a member of the House of Lords and Mr John Lytle, a senior Lambeth Palace official, visited Tehran. This

paved the way for direct diplomatic contacts, leading to an agreement to restore full diplomatic relations. But the deal collapsed in February 1989, when Ayatollah Khomeini sentenced Mr Rushdie to death.

Mr Robert Hicks, Conservative MP for Cornwall South East, who took part in the Tehran trip, yesterday welcomed the signs that a new attempt to improve links might be imminent.

The moves are expected if a meeting in Dublin on Wednesday between Iranian and

Continued on page 22, col 8

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Haughey again under pressure to change extradition laws

By Edward Gorman
Irish Affairs Correspondent

MR CHARLES Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, came under renewed pressure this weekend to change Ireland's extradition laws amid signs that his 10-month-old coalition government could face damaging division if he fails to act.

In an plea for watertight arrangements with Britain, Mr Des O'Malley, leader of the Progressive Democrats, which holds two seats in the Cabinet, told his party conference in Galway on Saturday that he believed "all decent people have been appalled by the spectacle of convicted IRA members being set free by the highest court in our land". The pressure

for change was further increased yesterday by a call from Mr Alan Dukes, leader of Fine Gael, the main opposition party, for an all-party summit on extradition aimed at closing any loopholes.

In an open letter to Mr Haughey and Mr O'Malley, the Fine Gael leader, echoing Mrs Thatcher's favourite phrase, said the republic must not be "a safe haven for terrorists" and he asked both leaders what joint action they proposed. Mr Dukes suggested that a special parliamentary committee should be set up to consider the issue.

Mr O'Malley's speech is the latest move in a growing campaign which unites Ireland's opposition parties to force Mr Haughey's hand in the wake of

recent Supreme Court decisions which have freed two convicted IRA men wanted in Northern Ireland and allowed a third suspected of serious offences, also wanted in Ulster, to go free.

Mr Haughey, whose Fianna Fail party voted at its annual conference recently to oppose extradition of Irish citizens to Britain "in present circumstances", faces a grassroots revolt if he accedes to demands for change. His present position is that he wants to see the new 1987 Extradition Act tested before the courts before considering whether it needs amendment.

Mr Haughey's confidence in the 1987 Act, shared by Mr Ray Burke, Minister for Justice, has, however, been condemned by opposition leaders and

commentators, including *The Irish Times*, which in a recent editorial called his position "at least disingenuous, at worst a bad case of political buck-passing".

Mr O'Malley condemned his own Government's policy. "It is anathema... that those who mock the democratic process and arrogate to themselves the right to murder and maim fellow Irishmen and women, should in any circumstance be accorded a mantle of political justification," he said. "The idea that such barbarism should somehow be construed as a form of political action is nauseating and immoral and it cannot continue."

In spite of his strong words, however, the Progressive Democrats, who lost

eight of its 14 seats in last summer's general election, Mr O'Malley is not likely to force a full-scale confrontation on this or any other issue since party strategists still fear they could face oblivion at the hands of the electorate.

Mr O'Malley's speech follows the publication earlier this month of a party position paper on extradition which called for an end to the so-called "political defence" in extradition cases, a defence which has recently been revived in Supreme Court judgements.

The paper argues that such defences should be removed for crimes such as possession of firearms with intent to endanger life and calls for the law to specify a list of offences that could not in future be regarded as political.

DENZIL McNEELAND

Labour's economic policy for debate

By Robin Oakley

A LABOUR anti-inflation policy being developed by the party is seen by its strategists as crucial to the public believing it has rejected incomes policies and trades union domination.

The latest draft of the policy, to be debated by Labour's Home Policy Committee tomorrow, proposes membership of the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System and tough cash limits on nationalized industries. It says: "We will not introduce a statutory incomes policy. It simply would not work."

Labour chiefs are discussing with union leaders plans for no-strike agreements for the police, fire services and ambulance services to avoid any repetition of the public sector disputes that dogged the Callaghan Government.

The document analyses inflation under the Conservative Government, saying that high inflation "cannot be tolerated".

Saying that the Conservatives were wrong to believe growth in the money supply was the only cause of inflation and wrong to tackle rising inflation with the single weapon of interest rates, the document says there can be a range of causes and inflation must be tackled with a package of measures affecting both supply and demand sides of the economy.

Mr Derek Foster, Labour's chief whip, is being challenged for his job amid unrest over the party's Commons performance. Mr Peter Snape, Labour MP for West Bromwich East and a transport spokesman, yesterday said he would stand for election to the post this autumn.

Thatcher hints at early EMS membership

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

MRS Margaret Thatcher has given her clearest hint yet that she intends Britain should become a full member of the European Monetary System before the next election.

In a little-noticed section of her weekend speech to the Scottish Conservative Party conference in Aberdeen, the Prime Minister gave notice that she is shifting her ground over membership of the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System — that domestic inflation should approximate to the European average.

The recent surge in prices, culminating in last week's inflation rate of 9.4 per cent, the highest for eight years, would appear to have lessened the prospect of this condition being met for some time.

However, Mrs Thatcher chose to put a different gloss on the figures, suggesting they were not the obstacle they seemed.

"If we calculated our inflation as they do in most countries in Europe, it would be almost 3 percentage points lower. So if you compare like with like, we are not so far above Europe's average for inflation," she said.

Mr Norman Lamont, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, made much the same point the previous day. He said the British rate of inflation was only 1.5 percentage points

above the European Community average when measured on a comparable basis.

Senior Conservative Euro MPs interpreted Mrs Thatcher's remarks as a sign that Britain could join the ERM before the December inter-governmental conference on economic and monetary union. Senior ministers believe, however, that entry is more likely next year because it would mesh better with the electoral cycle, making it easier to reduce inflation and interest rates in the run-up to an election.

Mrs Thatcher acknowledged that ERM membership would bring gains of this kind by describing it as a "supplement to sound financial policies".

Labour's enthusiasm for negotiating British membership of the ERM is one of the factors that has forced the Prime Minister's change of heart. The Opposition believes it can use the promise of ERM membership to diffuse the electorate's fears of an inflationary spiral under a Labour government.

Mrs Thatcher insisted, however, that Labour lacked the financial discipline to make the exchange mechanism work. "The ERM is no soft option. You agree to keep your exchange rate within certain well-defined limits. If it fails you have no choice but to raise interest rates, which is precisely what Labour attack us for doing."

In a relaxed and at times light-hearted performance, the Prime Minister reflected the new mood of government optimism after the council elections and gently sought to lay to rest speculation about her own position. Dismissing critics within Conservative ranks as "faint hearts", she said the council elections had started the Tory recovery had started the Tory recovery that would lead to a "grand slam of election victories".

The Prime Minister reiterated her pledge to deal with the difficulties surrounding the community charge, but made clear she would not simply throw money at the problem. In remarks suggesting that the Government review would concentrate on improved rebates and more generous transitional relief she said: "Our aim won't be to protect high-spending socialist councils. It will be to give some protection to those who have to pay for them."

Mr Michael Heseltine yesterday said the Prime Minister had been "generous" in the language she used about his ideas for the revamping of the community charge, outlined last week in *The Times* (Robin Oakley writes).

He urged the Government to take up his plan for local councils to be subject to elections if they sought to spend more than pre-set Government limits, as the Chancellor's problems would be acute with high inflation figures added to local spending budgets next year.

Conflicting signals, page 23



Prince Edward and Mrs Valerie Eliot, widow of T S Eliot, at a party in London yesterday to celebrate the ninth anniversary of *Cats*; based on Eliot's poems. Past and present stars of Britain's longest running musical were present although its creator, Andrew Lloyd Webber, did not attend

Professor renews call for beef ban

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

PROFESSOR Richard Lacey, the microbiologist who believes that six million cattle should be slaughtered to stop the spread of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, was unrepentant yesterday.

"I know I am seen as an alarmist and a scaremonger. If I am regarded as a *bête noire* at the Ministry of Agriculture and Department of Health, I take it as a compliment," he said.

Professor Lacey, senior microbiologist at Leeds University, said at the weekend that people should not eat beef until half the cattle herds in Britain, which had at least one animal infected with BSE, were slaughtered. He also advocated a total ban on exports of British beef.

"We need to put the British Isles in quarantine ourselves before someone else does," he said. His remarks were the latest in a series of controversial statements he has made on food safety.

"I realize that slaughtering six million cattle is a pretty draconian suggestion, but my concern is the welfare of the public. If BSE can be transmitted to humans from infected meat, it will take 20 years to show up because of the incubation period. We don't have that sort of time to spare," he said. There was evidence to suggest that transmission of the disease between species could occur.

• Government scientists and officials at the Ministry of Agriculture are dismissing Professor Lacey's comments as alarmist (John Young writes). The Ministry said research was continuing into the source of the disease and why it struck in such an apparently random fashion. There was no reason to suppose, however, that eating beef or other animal products posed a risk to human health.

Conflicting signals, page 23

Police find more cases of bogus social workers

By Peter Davenport

MORE cases of bogus social workers trying to examine children came to light yesterday on the eve of a conference to co-ordinate investigations across the country.

Scotland Yard was looking for a man and a woman who yesterday attempted to enter a house in Battersea, south-west London, to examine three children. The children's mother slammed the door in their faces when they failed to produce any identity.

Police in Greater Manchester released details of an incident in Wigan on Saturday afternoon in which a man claiming to be from the social services department tried to persuade a young mother to

let him examine her four children. He left after the woman refused to allow him into her house. Police said that later checks with Wigan social services showed that the family was not on its files.

Greater Manchester police also disclosed details of four other incidents in their area between Wednesday and Friday last week, in Oldham, Altrincham, Harpurhey and Salford. In two cases the women involved claimed they had been sent by social services and, in a third incident, tried to gain access to a house allegedly to conduct market research into health matters.

The other incident, on May 9, at Filton Hill, Oldham was

potentially the most serious. A man and a woman calling at a house saying they had called to take a girl to nursery school. Neighbours were alerted because the girl's grandfather had already taken her.

The latest cases will be among a national dossier to be considered at a conference in Sheffield today involving detectives from 12 forces investigating similar incidents.

A meeting has been called by South Yorkshire police who set up a task force after identifying a pattern of such incidents in the force area in March. Senior officers believe that where there have been clusters of cases close together, the incidents may be the work of organized gangs of pedophiles and their activities may be the prelude to an attempt to kidnap a child.

Other isolated incidents are likely to be the work of copycat offenders, which makes the task of formulating a policy to apprehend them that much harder. The number of confirmed cases is about 40 although some reports yesterday said the number could be as high as 60 and include some incidents that happened more than a year ago but which were treated as isolated offences.

Today's conference is to be chaired by South Yorkshire's assistant chief constable, Mr Martin Davies and among the issues to be discussed will be a suggestion that all incidents throughout the country should be logged on computer at a single centre, the incident room of Operation Childcare in Rotherham.

South Yorkshire Police rejected suggestions that they were slow to alert parents to the dangers of bogus social workers after detecting a pattern in the incidents. They have issued warnings since the special task force was established and have also released photographic pictures of a number of men and women they are seeking to interview.

AEU seeks deal with Toyota

THE engineering union is renewing its attempt to secure a single-union deal at the £700 million car plant being built by Toyota (Kevin Eason writes). Two Amalgamated Engineering Union officials are in Japan this week for talks with Toyota and officials of the Japanese carworkers' union.

The unexpected move will set the pace in a battle to win representation rights for 3,000 workers at the plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire, when it starts assembly in 1992.

The TUC last year decided that any approaches to Toyota should be made by all unions wanting to challenge for bargaining rights.

Poison cloud

An inquiry was launched yesterday into how illegally dumped chemicals caused a poisonous gas cloud to drift over Montrose, in Tayside, where police warned residents to remain indoors and roads were cordoned off. It is believed the fumes came from fertilizers which had been deposited on a fill site.

Bristol winner

Mr P.J. Meade, aged 50, who has reached the national final of The Times Collins Dictionary crossword championship each year since 1986, became the Bristol champion yesterday. Second was Mr J.C. Harding, of Portishead, and Mr Terence Girdlestone, of Bridgwater, was third. All three go forward to the final.

Camp alert

Meningitis experts were at the Somerset World holiday centre in Minehead, Somerset, yesterday to advise holidaymakers after a teenage girl died from the disease. A two-year-old child, thought to have caught meningitis before arriving, is recovering in hospital. Health officials believe the disease has been contained.

Tunnel aid plea

Nearly two-thirds of MPs want the Channel Tunnel Act repealed or amended to allow public investment in the project, a survey of 100 MPs for the south London borough of Southwark suggests.

Genetic passport

The Home Secretary is to be pressed to consider a "genetic passport" carrying palm prints of mother and baby taken at the time of birth to help to tackle a growing international trade in the illegal adoption of babies.

Bond winners

The winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000, 1XF 426507 (West Sussex); £50,000, 8AZ 161528 (East Sussex); £25,000, 18AL 30393 (Cornwall).

from The Mouth of The Lou.



DRINKING IN ABERLOUR.

HAVE YOU noticed, I wonder, how many conurbations bear nomenclature *appropriate* to their particular characteristics?

For instance, Luton clearly derives from the Anglo-Saxon *Lut-tun*, along with its sister-city of Dunstable denoting the site of the largest public conveniences on the medieval pilgrim's way from York to Canterbury.

Watford is clearly of more recent provenance, properly "What for?", representing a humble burgh's comment upon concrete shopping precincts, multi-storey car parks *et cetera*.

While the name of York, can be traced directly back to the Old Norse "Yuk", meaning "yuk", this being the first utterance attributed to Erik Bloodaxe on his first exploration of the boggy site early in the ninth century.

Be all this as it may, precious few settlements can claim to have derived their name from the very product of their toil and labour.

Though Slough could be most appropriately christened Mars, being as desolate and devoid of life as the ruddy planet itself.

Indeed, as far as we know, there is but one.

And it's hardly common knowledge even amongst malt whisky buffs that Aberlour Single Malt did, in fact, put the town of the same name on the map. In every sense.

For, in 1889, the town's elders voted to resyle their domicile in honour of their favoured tipple. ("Aberlour". Literally 'Mouth of the Lou', the clear mountain stream that feeds the distillery.)

And personally I must confess an abject aversion to travel.

Being more than content to while away the days here plumb in the midst of Speyside, drinking in Aberlour.

ABERLOUR
10 YEARS OLD

SINGLE SPEYSIDE MALT

St Patrick defeats a new Irish gold rush

By Our Irish Affairs Correspondent

IF ONLY St Patrick had known the problems he was to cause by choosing to fast for 40 days and 40 nights on top of a mountain in County Mayo, he might perhaps have decided to go somewhere else entirely.

It is exactly 1,549 years since he reputedly climbed the 2,500 feet to the top of Croagh Patrick, there to whisper his prayers to the four winds. Today a tiny summit chapel overlooking the breathtaking beauty of Clew Bay on the West coast of Ireland marks the spot; and every year nearly 100,000 pilgrims from all over the world climb up there, some of them barefoot, like St Patrick himself.

The 1980s and the first year of a new decade, however, have seen an unseemly and decidedly worldly scramble over Croagh Patrick, which has pitted the moral authority of the Church against the forces of secular greed.

For Croagh Patrick contains one of Ireland's richest deposits of gold, put there, as the believers would say, as a symbol of temptation perhaps. Mining engineers have found 13 seams of gold-bearing rock worth an estimated £300 million,

enough to spark a fierce argument between church and state, which this weekend was finally resolved. It appears that the Government, in the midst of its so-called "green" European presidency, has found the alliance of archbishops and environmentalists impossible to ignore.

"I have used my powers to exclude Croagh Patrick from prospecting because of the unique importance of this pilgrimage site which is part of our national cultural and religious heritage," Mr Bobby Molloy, the Minister for Energy, said in Galway on Saturday. The minister said he had come to believe that the Irish people would find mining on the holy mountain — "a place of special spiritual significance" — deeply offensive

Heritage body hit by threats to quit

By John Shaw

THE future of the Government's heritage committee that advises on the export of art treasures is in the balance after controversial changes in the law to allow the private sale of Canova's statue, "The Three Graces".

At a meeting with Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, five members of the committee complained that the Government had created "an unacceptable charter for speculators" by permitting private bids to stop export of the statue to the Getty Museum in California.

The meeting was called to discuss the wider financial situation and the effectiveness of regulations, said a member of the Reviewing Committee of the Export of Works of Art yesterday. "But it was inevitable that we would also discuss Mr Nicholas Ridley's decision on the Canova."

The protest is unprecedented and could easily undermine the Government's relations with the heritage lobby and the fine art world.

One member of the committee told Mr Luce she was considering resigning, but he advised against it. She had written a letter of resignation, "but I was asked to reconsider the position. I was asked not to send it and I didn't, but to put it mildly there is extreme dissatisfaction on the committee."

"Its whole position is being eroded and with these changes it will become worse. The Government's treatment of the Getty Museum has been unpardonable. It went against all the advice tendered to it. To put it frivolously, it changed the goal-posts in the middle of the game."

Mr Graham Reynolds, a member of the committee and former keeper of prints and drawings at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, said: "It was a polite meeting but firm words were spoken and firm views expressed. He said the committee had not met Mr Ridley before the announcement.

The reviewing committee's success rate in preventing nationally important works of art going abroad was considerable at first, Mr Reynolds said. "But in the past few years it has been dropping considerably."

Asked why, he said: "The Government is not putting enough money in to help acquire the works of art which the committee considers are of outstanding national importance."

The purchase grant for museums and galleries is £13 million. It has not been increased for several years. The Government insists that private buyers are the only way to ensure that the greatest works of art can stay in Britain. The heritage lobby fears that national museums would be excluded from buying treasures by speculative business deals.

Under the old system the reviewing committee provided a "safety net". If dissatisfaction with the new rules leads to resignations en-bloc, however, it could be the effective end of an export control mechanism. A further meeting is planned to discuss the situation, probably in July.



Mr Luce: Complaints over heritage policy

Takeover 'will cripple' archaeology rescue role

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

ENGLISH Heritage is to take (DGLA), which was responsible for such finds as the Rose and Globe theatres, the Roman dock complex at Guy's Hospital, the palace of Edward II and house of Sir John Fastolf near Hay's Wharf and Saxon Westminster.

The body, statutory adviser on archaeology to the Department of the Environment, is to assume the role of a county archaeological officer, performed mostly by the Museum of London since the demise of the Greater London Council in 1986.

Planning authorities in London have received a document outlining how English Heritage intends to proceed on archaeology in London, taking over the role of strategic assessment and planning advice from the museum.

The unit most affected is the museum's Department of Greater London Archaeology.

Georgian theatre's worldwide appeal

FIFTY-SEVEN towns named Richmond are to be asked to help secure the future of a unique 18th-century theatre. The tiny, 201-seat Georgian Theatre Royal in Richmond, North Yorkshire, is enjoying its most successful season yet, with average attendances of 96 per cent, but is facing a serious financial crisis.

The theatre will receive grants of £8,000 this year. It needs another £20,000 a year to help pay for its packed programme, however, because even full houses cover half the cost of an average show.

"We've never had enough funding," Mr Les Jobson, the manager, said. "We've always had to find sponsors and raise funds in donations and covenants."

"The fundamental problem now is that because we are such a small theatre we can't make the ticket prices commensurate with the rising costs, and so we either make a loss or only break even on 50 out of 60 shows. We have two alternatives — either to raise the extra money or cut the programme. We are trying to raise the money to see the theatre into the 21st century."

The theatre is a charitable trust run by Mr Jobson and Mrs Monica Hill, with the Duchess of Kent as patron and Dame Judi Dench as honorary president. It regularly draws leading performers and has 130 voluntary workers who help with the box office and stage management.

"They even buy their own tickets," Mr Jobson said. "We do not do complimentary tickets and have extremely low overheads. Hardly any of our money goes on administration costs."

He is optimistic about the Theatre Trust's plan to raise £250,000, which would be invested to produce £20,000 a year. "I've got details of 57 Richmonds around the world, mostly in the United States, but also in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa," he said. "We are not going to beg but I am sure some of them will want to help. We are an historic theatre of worldwide importance and visitors — especially theatrical historians — come from all over the world to see us."

The theatre was built in 1788 by Samuel Butler, an actor-manager who built four other theatres in Yorkshire. It closed in 1842 and for 120 years was used as a store and auction room. Remarkably, its interior was not destroyed, and it was restored, then reopened in 1963.

Chips come in from the cold

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

THE British, internationally reputed to have chips with everything, have long been ridiculed by nutritionists throughout the world over their fondness for them.

Now at last the chip has found a supporter and in no less a nation than Sweden, where healthy living has long been the real national religion.

Miss Ingrid Lambberg, whose profession is "food technician" and who has conducted at the University of Lund many years of exhaustive research into the fried potato, states quite categorically that chips do not deserve their bad reputation.

"It is far better to eat newly prepared frozen chips than boiled potatoes," she says in a doctoral thesis. "Chips con-

tain nearly all the nourishment one needs."

In a move likely to win her many young friends, she recommends chips as a school dinner rather than the more traditional Swedish dishes that usually involve boiled potatoes.

Miss Lambberg will dispute energetically her controversial theories on the chip later this week when she defends her thesis against protagonists of salad and fibre.

She supports her claim with a detailed breakdown on the ability of the deep frozen chip to retain minerals and other nourishing elements.

It dries in the process of refrigeration and is thus better than the freshly made variety, Miss Lambberg says, because it

contains less fat when defrosted and cooked. "The more a potato dries out the less fat it absorbs."

However should the news from Sweden for chip lovers appear too encouraging, Miss Lambberg does give two warnings.

"Industrially produced frozen chips are not bad food value at all," she says. "But they must be defrosted and cooked in the oven, never fried all over again"; and she has little to say in favour of crisps, which curiously are called *chips* in Swedish, while chips have their French name, *pommes frites*. "Their fat content is much higher than chips," she says, giving at least some potato lovers food for thought.



Crews of a microlight and an inflatable dinghy practising off Caernarfon for their 1991 trip from New York to Moscow in aid of the Children's Society. They aim to take 15 days using a special refuelling method

College course exported to Athens

By Douglas Broom
Education Reporter

THE first agreement to export British vocational education to the rest of Europe will be signed in Athens tomorrow. Coventry Technical College has won a contract to provide two-year Higher National Diploma courses in business studies for up to 2,000 Greek students a year from September.

The contract, contradicting the conventional wisdom that Britain's

educational system is inferior to those of other European countries, was won despite competition from elsewhere in Europe and will involve lecturers from Coventry teaching Greek students in English at a new centre in Athens.

On completion of the two-year HND course, validated by the British Business and Technician Education Council, the Greeks will be eligible to enter a one-year degree course at a British polytechnic. The Anglo-Greek project has been developed

by the college in collaboration with Wolverhampton Polytechnic, which is expected to offer degree course places. More than 100 students will be enrolled in Athens this September.

Mr John Temple, the Coventry college's principal, said: "This is just the start of what we hope to achieve in Europe."

Education, pages 18 and 19
Independent Schools, page 32

AGENTS

The week ahead

Today
The Woolf Inquiry into the unmet needs of the United Nations' state of world population report is published. Mr Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary, opens an East-West conference organized by the British Group of Young Politicians.

Tomorrow
The funeral of Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich takes place in Armagh. A national voluntary proof-of-age card scheme for teenage drinkers is launched by the Portman Group.

Wednesday
The Princess of Wales attends a National AIDS Trust conference and the Metropolitan Police unveil details of a Land-Rover expedition to Russia. The World Wildlife Fund launches an elephant conservation scheme and Lord Tonypandy, former Speaker, receives the Guild of Professional Toastmasters' after-dinner speaker award.

Thursday
Voters go to the polls in the Upper Bann by-election in Northern Ireland and the Prince of Wales pleads for the rain forests at a Friends of the Earth conference. Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, opens the centenary exhibition of the London Transport Museum.

Friday
Mr Neil Kinnock addresses the Wales Labour Party conference in Swansea, the Princess Royal opens the National Garden Festival at Gateshead, and Scottish baronies and English manor lordships go under the auctioneer's hammer at Glazier's Hall, London.

Saturday
President de Klerk of South Africa meets Mrs Thatcher and EC foreign ministers meet in Ireland. It is day two of the National Conference of Local Councillors in Great Yarmouth.

Sunday
The 63rd Nuffield annual conference begins at Blackpool.

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Forces urged to cut firing exercises in national parks

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE Ministry of Defence should take the opportunity arising from the reduced military threat to cut back, if not stop, live firing exercises in national parks, according to a report published today. The researchers also urged the ministry to draw up a strategic plan for the land on which training is carried out and to subject it to independent public scrutiny.

The report by the UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development, an independent research organization set up in 1984, says a rethink of ministry policy is necessary for a number of reasons. Those include the changing defence situation and the "unprecedented level of concern for environmental quality".

One of the fundamental questions the report says, was whether all the national park land held for live firing is needed "in a strict operational sense". Some of the evidence reviewed in this report, particularly the analysis of intensity of use of the Dartmoor ranges, suggests that the MoD has overestimated the need for live firing, but it is

reluctant to relinquish land it currently holds."

The report, which was commissioned by several environmental organizations, including the Council for National Parks and the Council for the Protection of Rural England, was written by Dr Susan Owens, a lecturer in geography at Cambridge University. She focused on land used at Dartmoor, Devon, the Pembrokeshire coast and Northumberland.

While accepting that "military occupation" of large areas of national parks had helped to preserve wildlife, the report says that noise remains a significant problem. Complaints about firing exercises at the Castlemartin range in Pembrokeshire, had recently increased sharply, largely because of the introduction of a new tank gun by the German army. "Many people find the noise of firing particularly disturbing when they are seeking the quietude of remote areas," the report says.

The ministry has argued in recent years that training needs are increasing, partly because fewer troops are based overseas. The size of the Terri-

torial Army is also rising, creating a need for more training.

The report says the West German defence ministry has announced drastic reductions in large-scale field training exercises from 1990, mainly due to "political pressure arising from a perceived reduction in the Soviet threat and the greening of West German politics". It adds: "Similar pressures in the UK cannot be ruled out, especially in areas like Dartmoor where there is a long history of environmental opposition to military training."

Dr Owens says although the cessation of live firing was unlikely to be possible in the short to medium term, a "phased withdrawal" from the national parks could occur. The report suggests that where live firing remains, an environmental charge could be levied. Environmental considerations in general needed to be integrated into the Government's defence policy, the report said.

Military Live Firing in National Parks (UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development, £10)

General sees role for paras fifty years on

By Michael Evans

FIFTY years ago next month Winston Churchill issued a memo to the War Office which called for the formation of "a corps of at least 5,000 parachute troops". From that moment, June 22, Britain's airborne forces were born and on Thursday the Queen will watch a parachute assault by 600 soldiers on Salisbury Plain as one of the high points in the 50th anniversary celebrations.

The actions of the "Red Devils" Parachute Regiment, whose motto is "Ready for Anything", have become part of military legend, including their involvement in the Falklands campaign which led to the award of two posthumous Victoria Crosses, to Colonel "H" Jones, commanding officer of 2 Para, and Sergeant Ian McKay, of 3 Para.

Today the future role of the Parachute Regiment is being examined, along with all other sections of the three armed services, in the Government's options for change review. General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, former Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces Northern Europe until his retirement last year but still Colonel Commandant of the Parachute Regiment, is convinced that they will have a strong role in the future.

He said yesterday: "What we will need in the future are intervention forces that are lightly equipped, not static forces." He did not envisage an expanded paratroop force, although there would need to be more money spent on improved equipment. To enhance the Parachute Regiment's ability to drop into

trouble spots, the Hercules transport aircraft should be equipped with advanced navigational aids to allow them to fly in close formation.

Looking ahead to a possible restructuring of Britain's most flexible military units, the paratroopers and the Royal Marines, General Howlett said: "We are great rivals but we have enormous respect for each other and we both need aerial intervention. I don't think it is conceivable that we may be put in some formation together."

General Howlett also supported the idea, already under discussion by those taking part in the MoD's options for change review, of the formation of multi-national forces. He even suggested that it would be possible under certain circumstances for Nato and Warsaw Pact units to join together in military interventionist operations in areas such as the Middle East.

While confident that the Parachute Regiment had an assured future, General Howlett said it would be wrong to react too quickly to the political changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

"We must take it steady," he said, adding: "If Gorbachov succeeds and the Soviet Union genuinely adopts a defensive posture, then we will have to be very careful how we spend our money on defence."

The Golden Jubilee celebrations, called Para 90, which include charity events to raise £4 million, will be marked by a special airborne forces service at St Paul's Cathedral on June 22. The parachute drop by 600 soldiers from 15 Hercules aircraft in front of the Queen on Thursday will involve soldiers from 5 Airborne Brigade.

Yesterday General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, one of the founder members of the Parachute Regiment and now its official historian, said: "When Churchill sent his famous memo we did not have any parachutes. We had to start from scratch. We jumped without a reserve parachute from 500ft and were pleased to do it because we wanted to be in the air for as short a time as possible."



General Howlett: Supports idea of multi-national forces

Protests force delay in plans at market town

By John Young

PROTESTS by residents have forced a local authority to defer until autumn discussions on plans for a shopping centre and multi-storey car park in Ludlow, Shropshire, described as the most perfectly preserved medieval market town in Britain.

The dispute has attracted wide attention, as Ludlow, with a population of 7,500, has more than 700 buildings listed as of historic or architectural interest. Many observers are astonished that after planning mistakes which destroyed the traditional appearance and character of many town centres, the council could contemplate such a project.

One of its most outspoken opponents is Mr Tom Caulcott, a former senior civil servant, private secretary to

Competitive importance of being earnest

TIM BISHOP



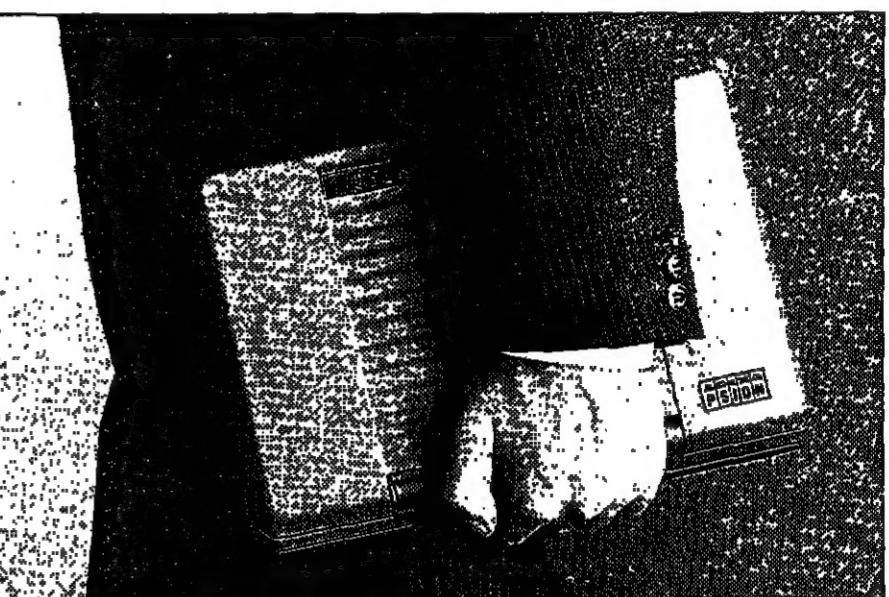
Mr Harold Andrews and Miss Lara Grylls, right, having an intense conversation at the Glaziers' Hall, London yesterday, under the careful scrutiny of a judge, Mrs Irene Gawne. Miss Grylls and Mr Andrews were two of the 26 people who were

attempting to talk their way to the Conversationalist of the Year title. Contestants, who include Mrs Norma Coburn, a music teacher, and her son Peter, a history teacher, of Hertford, must converse "reasonably intelligently" to each other in pairs.

The conversations last for 25 minutes. The contest will raise funds for the Association for Spina Biifida and Hydrocephalus. The first prize is a holiday in Portugal for two. The contest is now in its tenth year and is sponsored by Whitaker's Almanack.

• The owner of Britain's brightest smile was declared yesterday to be Miss Victoria Young, aged 20, a sales agent of Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear. Miss Young won the competition at the start of "National Smile Week".

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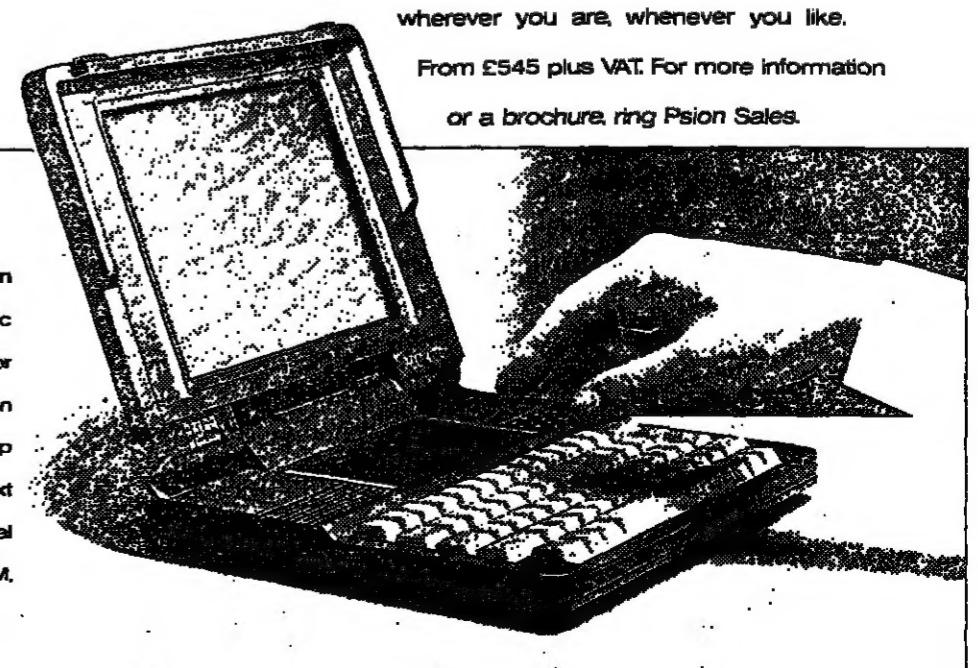
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Rosie the rhino to get a Czech mate

By Ruth Galloway

A ZOO in Czechoslovakia is to send a black rhinoceros, an endangered species, to London Zoo for a head-to-head mate.

Mr Horatio, a white rhino, has a mate at the London Zoo.

Poll tax test looms for the courts and councils

By Tom Giles

COUNCILS and courts in England and Wales are bracing themselves for the first important test in the collection of poll taxes.

By next month, many local authorities will have taken first steps towards the collection of late payments by issuing reminders. Although the timing is at the discretion of the authority, once issued they impose a series of statutory obligations upon councils to recover the debt. Unlike their Scottish counterparts, non-payers in England and Wales face the prospect of action.

With bills in some areas still being posted, the Home Office says it is impossible to estimate the number of default cases likely to arise. It has, however, urged clerks of magistrates' courts to contact councils to discuss arrangements for dealing with non-payers. Mr John Hosking, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said he was confident the courts could cope.

Docklands flats on offer in 7.5% deal

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

THE battle to sell homes in London docklands, probably the worst bit of anywhere in the housing stakes, is joined in earnest today, with the announcement of a Fairlough Homes scheme offering a 7.5 per cent mortgage rate on a 30/30 partnership deal. 10 buyers of flats in the two developments, London Wharf on the Isle of Dogs and Queen's Wharf in Limehouse, should take note.

In January, the developers introduced the 30/30 scheme under which the buyer would pay half the capital value over a period of 30 years.

They have since been followed by other firms. The deal resulted in the sale by Fairlough of nearly half the flats in the two developments.

Mr Tim Farrow, managing director of Fairlough Homes, commented: "We then sat back and considered what to do next to keep the market going." They came up with the 7.5 per cent fixed rate mortgage, about half the current rate, which will operate until the end of 1991 or for 18 months from purchase.

Under the new scheme, a buyer, having put down a 5 per cent deposit, could move into a two-bedroom mews flat worth £135,000 for around £95 a week, a rent for about £700 a week. A two-bedroom flat costing £210,000 in full, can be purchased for £103,000 which, deducting a 5 per cent deposit, would normally require a mortgage of £1,161 a month. That is reduced to £590 a month under the scheme.

Five development projects have been praised on environmental grounds in a report, *The Green Builder*, published today by the Public and Local Service Efficiency Campaign.

The report criticizes developers who have constructed "low-quality, poorly designed housing estates with barely a passing thought for environmental considerations" but commends Northwick Village, Canvey Island, Essex, Aston Prior, the West Midlands, South Woodham Ferrers, Essex, Marlesham Heath, East Anglia, and Parc Daffydd, South Wales.



Mr. Hosking: Confident the courts can cope

Rosie the rhino to get a Czech mate

By Ruth Gledhill

A ZOO in Czechoslovakia is to send a black rhinoceros, an endangered species, to be a mate for a hand-reared female at London Zoo.

Rosie, born in November 1988, had to be reared by her keeper after she was born underweight and was rejected by Stumpy, her 27-year-old mother. Black rhinos are known to be difficult to hand rear. London Zoo said few survived and none are known to have bred.

Dvur Kralove Zoo is sending a male aged 18 months in June or September in exchange for an Indian rhinoceros from Whipsnade wild animal park in Bedfordshire. The Czech zoo is also sending a large shipment of hoofed stock including bongo and kudu (antelopes) to London, Whipsnade and Marwell Zoo near Winchester. Rosie will not be of breed-

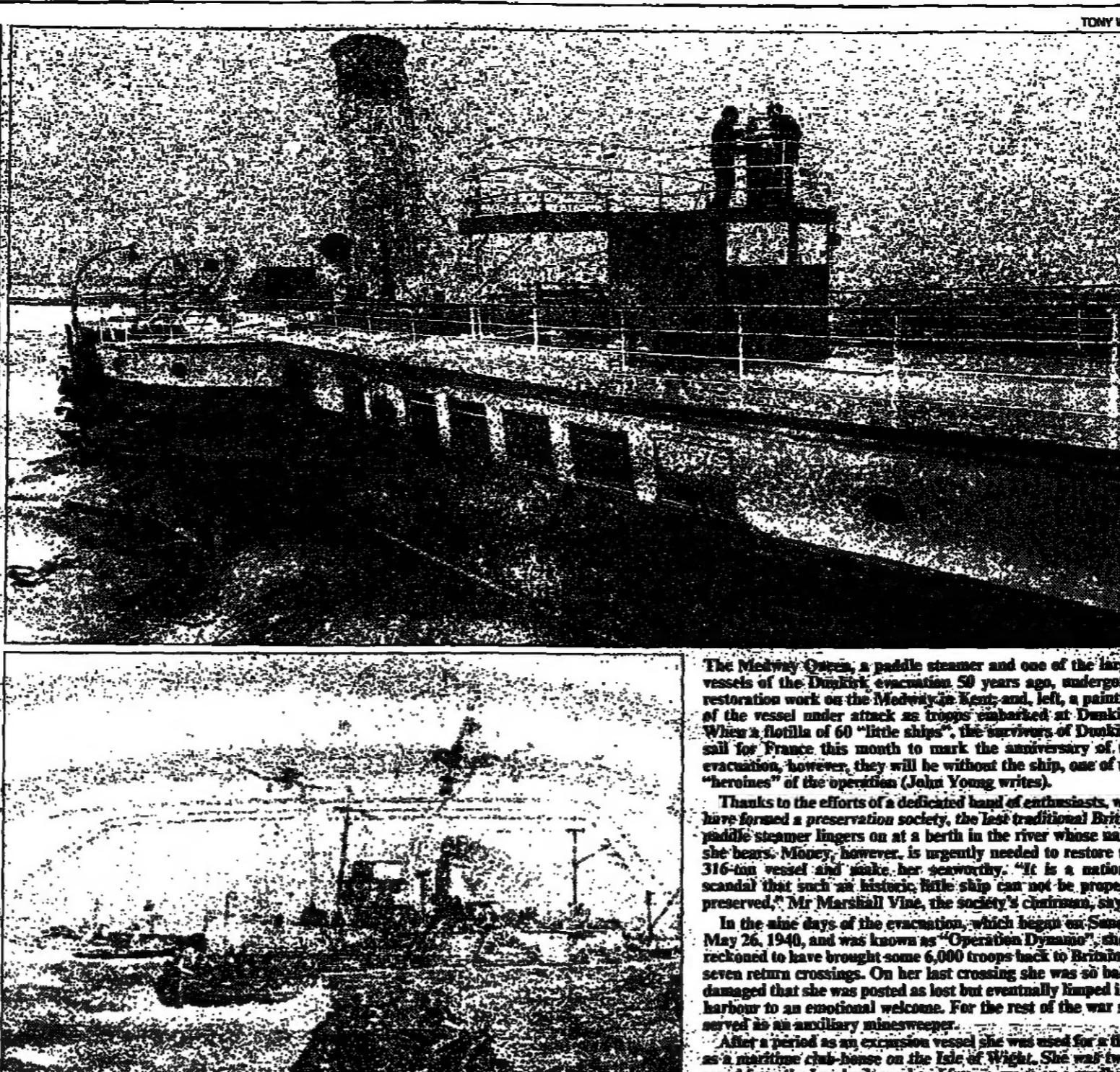
ing age for about two years but the zoo is keen that she should get to know a prospective mate while she is still young. A zoo spokesman said: "We hope that when it comes to the fatal moment she will realize she is a rhino. It will help to have a young male to grow up with."

Dr Rob Brett, a rhino expert with the Kenya Wildlife Service, said about 3,800 black rhinos worldwide survived.

"We do not know of a single black rhino which has been hand-reared from the earliest age and which has then bred, although a number have been hand-reared to breeding age. We will be watching this with interest."

London Zoo has also helped to negotiate a shipment of three northern white rhino, of which about 40 survive in the wild, from Dvur to San Diego, California.

Rosie will not be of breed-



The Medway Queen, a paddle steamer and one of the largest vessels of the Dunkirk evacuation 50 years ago, undergoing restoration work on the Medway in Kent; and, left, a painting of the vessel under attack as troops embarked at Dunkirk. When a flotilla of 60 "little ships", the survivors of Dunkirk sail for France this month to mark the anniversary of the evacuation, however, they will be without the ship, one of the "heroes" of the operation (John Young writes).

Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated band of enthusiasts, who have formed a preservation society, the last traditional British paddle steamer lingers on at a berth in the river where she built. Money, however, is urgently needed to restore her.

"It is a national scandal that such an historic little ship can not be properly preserved," Mr Marshall Vine, the society's chairman, says.

In the nine days of the evacuation, which began on Sunday May 26, 1940, and was known as "Operation Dynamo", she is reckoned to have brought some 6,000 troops back to Britain on seven return crossings. On her last crossing she was so badly damaged that she was posted as lost but eventually limped into harbour to an emotional welcome. For the rest of the war she served as an auxiliary minesweeper.

After a period as an excursion vessel she was used for a time as a maritime club-house on the Isle of Wight. She was twice saved from the breaker's yard and from a grave on a sandbank before being rescued and taken to her present home.

Attempt to identify basis of disorder

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

An international effort to identify the genes, which until now have eluded researchers, is under way. Specialists are working for help from families in which two or more relatives are sufferers, as part of a study involving experts in Europe, the US and Far East.

The illness affects one in 100 people. The closer an individual's genetic relationship is to a person with schizophrenia, the greater is the risk of that individual being affected. Studies have shown that the potential to develop the condition is genetically transmitted, and that several genes are likely to be involved. Other factors are complications in pregnancy and birth, but it is not yet possible to identify "at-risk" members of individual families.

Professor Robert Murray, head of the genetics section of the Institute of Psychiatry in Camberwell south-east London, says: "This is one of the most desperate mental illnesses known. It has a destructive effect on the sufferers, their families and friends. It has long been believed that it runs in families, but precisely how it is transmitted is yet to be unravelled."

Identification of the gene or genes involved in the disorder would lead to more effective treatments and better counselling for those who may be at risk and could result in a cure, he said. Interested families should contact the genetics section of the institute at De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, Camberwell, London SE5 8AF.

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WHERE PEOPLE MATTER

Princess to hear how project is cutting offences by young

By Peter Davenport

The Princess Royal, president of the Save the Children Fund, will today hear how a pioneering scheme involving it in Durham is helping to achieve dramatic reductions in the numbers of young offenders sent into custody.

Together with Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, she is to attend and address a seminar in Durham on a partnership programme involving the charity, police, social services, the probation service and voluntary groups, providing community-based alternatives to prison and residential care.

The scheme has secured an 85 per cent reduction in the use of residential care and custody since 1986, much greater than the national figure, and led to a 23 per cent cut in the amount of juvenile crime over the same period and to a

dramatic decrease in the re-offending rate. Although the reoffending rate among young people given custodial sentences was as much as 97 per cent, it is only 56 per cent in one half of the project area and 49 per cent in the other.

Mr John Errington, the charity's divisional director for the North, said: "We believe that Durham demonstrates that, on a large scale, over a long period, you can do away with custody for juveniles."

He added: "What is being achieved in the county is far more than offering alternatives to custody. Rather, it is a total strategy, covering crime prevention, diversion from the courts and replacements for care and custody for juveniles and, now, for young adults, too. We are developing the kind of justice system for young people that is urgently needed throughout the UK."

Following the success of the project in

Durham, the Home Office has provided funding for it to be extended to young adult offenders in the 17 to 20 age range.

The programme, in the north of Co Durham, is called "Challenge" and run by a local voluntary agency, and in the south, is called "Springboard" and run by social services. Both versions are successors of projects started in 1984, when the Government provided two years' financial backing for 110 schemes throughout the country aimed at improving juvenile justice.

Between 250 and 300 young offenders have been referred to the projects in the past five years. Save the Children has been involved through its consultancy project, Contract, which monitors, advises and evaluates the schemes.

Mr Errington said that a key element of the success of the Durham project was that it was run by a central strategy group

made up of the chief executive of the county council, the chief constable and the heads of social services and the probation service.

The project also involved the willingness of the courts to send young offenders to it, rather than into custody, and of the police to use cautions in appropriate cases rather than put teenagers straight into the court system.

The young offenders are put into intensive, short-term programmes of either four or eight months' duration, during which they have to confront and change the attitudes that led them to offend. Other work is being done to identify and tackle problems, such as unemployment and homelessness, that lead juveniles into crime.

Save the Children issued case studies of two young offenders helped.

• Dave, aged 16, had a string of offences

to his name, including burglary and stealing a vehicle, when referred to the Challenge project. He had already received two detention orders and his destructive behaviour at home was causing a poor relationship with his mother and brothers.

During the eight-month programme, he was helped to tackle the reasons for his re-offending, employment problems and family relationships. Although initially wary, he began to trust the staff and gradually improved the relationship with his mother and reassessed his friendships with well-known offenders.

He joined a project learning to ride and maintain motorcycles and began working with patients at a local hospital, helping to develop courses for mentally handicapped adults. His self-esteem improved after he had seen others worse off than himself, and, towards the end of

the programme, he found a steady job as a labourer. Since then, he has decided to train for a career in sports and leisure management and he has not re-offended.

• Bob, also 16, was remanded to the care of the local authority pending court proceedings, and felt that he had nothing to lose by absconding and re-offending because if he were sent to secure accommodation, that would count towards any custodial sentence received.

Challenge provided a "bail support" letting him stay with his family, although he was visited by staff. During three months' bail, he started a YTS course, and, when he finally appeared in court, he was given an alternative to care and custody disposal.

The seminar, "Keeping Young People out of Prison", will be attended by judges, magistrates, court clerks and officers of the departments involved.

Growing under class 'threat to society'

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

BRITAIN has a small but growing under class of poor people cut off from the values of the rest of society and prone to violent, anti-social behaviour, according to a report published today by the Institute of Economic Affairs, a right-wing think tank.

Dr Charles Murray, the author, gives a warning that rising illegitimacy, crime and labour force drop-out rates among the young mean that Britain is likely to repeat the American experience that has blighted whole neighbourhoods in towns and cities.

Dr Murray, the Bradley Fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research in New York, says: "Britain does have an under class, still largely out of sight and still smaller than the one in the United States. But it is growing rapidly. Within the next decade it will probably become as large, proportionately, as the United States' under class. It could easily become larger."

Illegitimacy rates in Britain have risen in the past few years - from 14.1 per cent in 1982 to 25.6 per cent in 1988. The increase has been concentrated among the lowest social class, he says.

The figures are alarming because boys, in particular, need the role model of a father to grow into responsible adults. "Fifteen years ago, there was hardly a poor neighbourhood in urban Britain where children did not still see plentiful examples of good fathers around them,"

"Today, the balance has already shifted in many poor neighbourhoods. In a few years the situation will be much worse, for this is a problem that nurtures itself," he says.

"In communities without fathers the kids tend to run wild. Run wild can mean such simple things as young children having no set bedtime. It can mean them being left alone in the house at night while mummy goes out. It can mean an 18-month-old toddler allowed to play in the street. It can mean children who are inordinately physical and aggressive in their relationships with other children," he says.

He also points to the 43 per cent rise in violent crime between 1982-88 as evidence of the emergence of an under class. Dr Murray argues that higher benefits and more relaxed social attitudes have made illegitimacy more economically and socially feasible. He also says that crime has become "safer" as detection rates have fallen and penalties have been reduced.

In the same report from the IEA, Mr Frank Field, the Labour chairman of the all-party Commons social services committee, calls for new policies to deter young single women from having babies and to make absent fathers responsible for the maintenance of their children.

The Emerging British Under Class, by Charles Murray and others (Institute of Economic Affairs, 2 Lord North Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3LB; price £5.95, 82pp)

Letters, page 13

Police take tougher line on begging as complaints rise

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

PROSECUTIONS for begging in central London have at least tripled over the past year and may have increased by as much as five times, prosecution officers say.

Their estimates, which Whitehall officials privately accept are correct, indicate a decisive toughening of the police's approach towards the growing incidence of begging in the capital. Complaints to the police about vagrants have risen sharply over the past 18 months.

Some beggars are alleged to have threatened commuters and tourists; more than 90 per cent of those prosecuted are convicted and the typical punishment is a small fine or one day's imprisonment.

The National Association of Probation Officers says 1,396

people were convicted of begging last year in just four of the 14 inner London magistrates' courts, compared with 500 prosecutions for the whole of London in 1988. Of those convicted last year in Clerkenwell, Marborough, Bow Street and Hoxton Road magistrates' courts, 139 (12 per cent) received fines, 585 (51 per cent) a fine or one day's imprisonment, 346 (30 per cent) a conditional discharge and 22 (2 per cent) an absolute discharge.

Most beggars - all convicted under the 1824 Vagrancy Act - were male; about 190 were aged under 21, 203 between 22 and 30, and 508 aged over 30.

Mr Harry Fletcher, the association's assistant general secretary, said: "It ought not

When dreams of city life crumble

By Lin Jenkins

AT THE age of 18, John Thompson regards himself as a seasoned beggar. His clean and tidy appearance belies his homelessness. In his pocket he carries the only tool of his trade, a neatly folded piece of paper bearing the words "Hungry and Homeless".

One of the army of youngsters begging on every corner in London's railway and tube stations, he relies on donations to survive. The alternative would be a government training scheme with an income of less than £30 a week.

Without a home, he has little option. What he would most like is a "proper job", and he has invested his hopes on getting labouring work on the Channel tunnel site. "I went to see about it before

TONY WHITE



Resident of cardboard city and friend

Christmas, and I have to go back down in a fortnight. At least they pay decent money," he said, between stopping people at Waterloo station.

His appeal is always polite. "There is no point being rude, most people have already been approached about seven times before they get to me," he said. "They can't give money to everyone."

In the 18 months since he left his native Glasgow in the hope of finding work, John has been arrested under the 166-year-old Vagrancy Act nearly a dozen times.

"You spend a night in the cells and then appear in court," he said. "Sometimes, they just let you go, having counted the day as a day in custody, or they fine you £10. It's a waste of time, really."

Much of the time, he lives in Waterloo's "cardboard city", his begging income of "a few quid a day" enabling him to eat, keep his clothes clean with the aid of facilities at the nearby North Lambeth Day Centre, and pay for the beer that he considers essential as a buffer against the futility of his life.

Miss Alice O'Flynn, manager of the centre, maintains the pattern is all too familiar. She said: "There are so many more young people on the streets. They cannot claim benefit, so really have no option. Many come to London believing they will get work, but the reality is very different and they just fall into this way of existing."

"They are easy targets for the police. The vagrancy law is archaic and has the additional stupidity that each time they go to court, the fine increases, so they beg all the more."

Simon, who has been in London for four years since quitting his job making combs in north-east England, is articulate and streetwise, and values his life in the homeless "community" more highly than his previous "dead-end job in a rural backwater", even though he now has a criminal record for begging.

"They will keep arresting us, because we are a nuisance. There is nothing else they can do with us," he said.

The Home Office said: "No one is sent to prison for being homeless. In general, the police only arrest for begging when there is some element of threatening behaviour."

The basic purpose of vagrancy laws is to preserve public order and decency and to protect individuals from offence or injury. The Government shares the public concern about the problems of homelessness and departments are looking together at what more can be done to help," a Home Office spokesman said.

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At the same time, the chambers said the decision to appoint a lay director had come about during debate on how the chambers should develop over the next decade. "The consensus was that the administration was anachronistic and not suited to the managerial function which a modern-day chambers required."

It was important, he added, that the chambers should be properly managed and presented as 1992 approached and the Bar faced competition for work from City firms of solicitors.

The chambers is already one of the top sets at the Bar. It is particularly strong in public law, commercial litigation and international law, and boasts such names as Mr Anthony Lester, QC, and Mr David Pannick, one of the rising stars of the profession.

At the same time it includes four well-known practising professors of law.

The venture into marketing and professional administration is expected to set a trend: a key recommendation of the Bar's long-awaited strategy report, due out in the next few weeks, is that chambers adopt a similar approach.

Under the scheme, the senior clerk has retired but a team of junior clerks, who will negotiate with solicitors and handle fees and bookings, will remain.

Among the chamber's plans are

to develop its work abroad; not only in Brussels, where it has a branch, but in the United States and Japan. That is in line with Bar strategy to promote itself internationally, where clients can come to it direct and are not obliged to go through a solicitor.

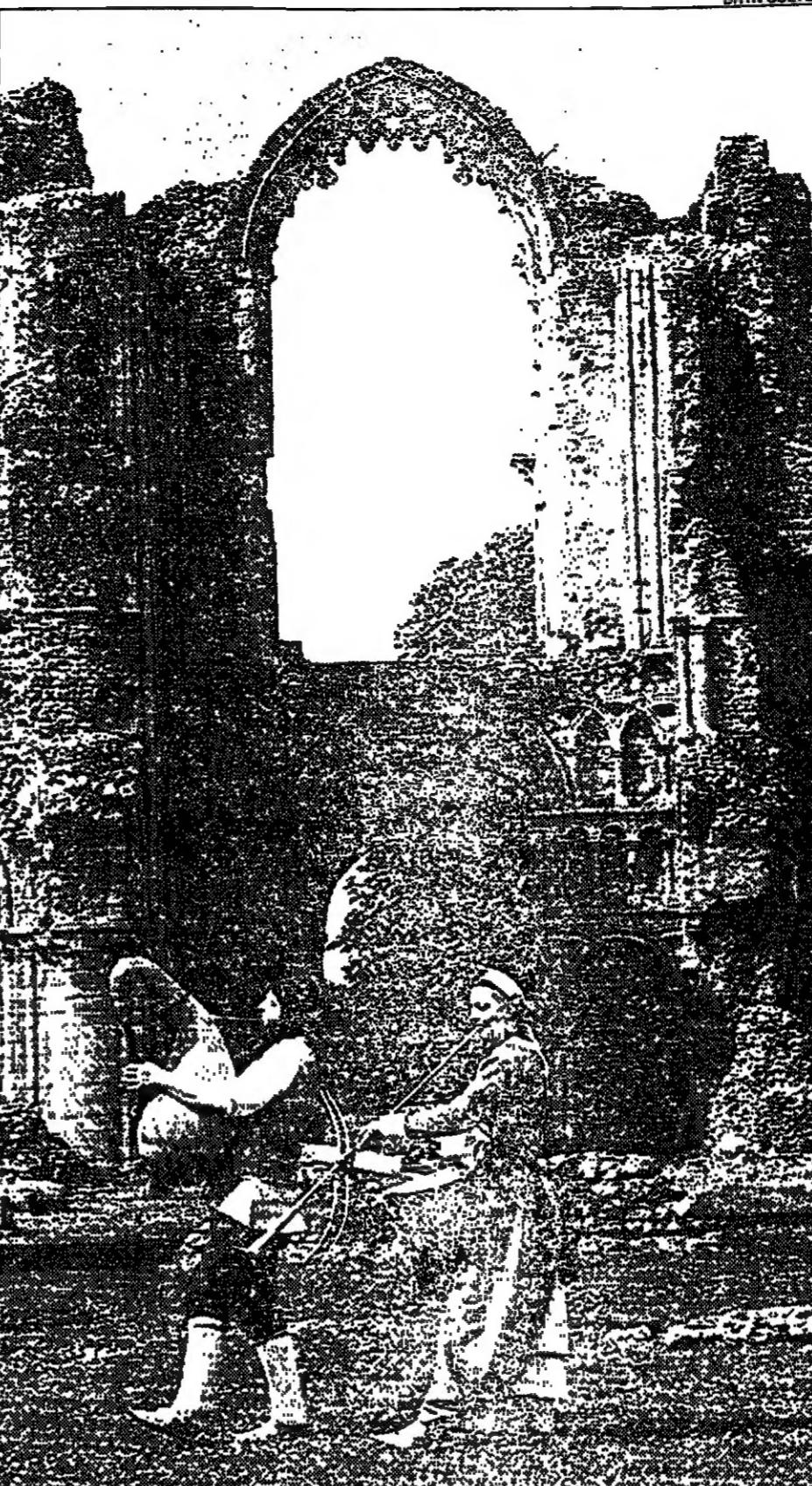
Mr Devlin (son of the retired law lord, Lord Devlin), was appointed partly with an eye to such development; he already handles public relations for the International Bar Association.

More than half the chambers in London have no brochure, two years after rules were relaxed allowing such publicity, according to a survey by College Hill Associates.

chambers, a public relations consultancy. The survey shows that of 200 sets responding to the survey, 122 had no brochure (60 per cent); 41 had a brochure available (20 per cent) and 37 had a brochure in preparation (20 per cent).

• Amnesty International has offered the Law Society half the places in its London creche. The eight places, available to Law Society staff or solicitors' firms, were welcomed by Mr Jonathan Goldsmith, of the society. "We have to accept these places quickly if the offer is to stand," he said.

"Depending on demand, we will then decide whether to continue with our plans for our own creche."



Roving troubadours: Rick and Helen Heavisides at Castle Acre Priory, near Swaffham, Norfolk, the second venue on their summer tour of 21 English Heritage castles. The couple's repertoire stretches from the medieval to Victorian age

1907 Silver Ghost sold for £1.7m

By John Shaw

A BRITISH car dealer paid a record £1,702,000 for a 1907 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost.

One of only four of its type known, at a £13 million

of a remarkable car collection in Palm Beach, southern Florida.

Car Howard International,

the leading London dealer in vintage and veteran Rolls-Royces, bought the top lot in the sale of 24 vehicles owned by the late Mr Rick Carroll, an insurance broker, staged by Sotheby's in the lush setting of the Breakers Hotel overlooking the Atlantic.

The Rolls was one of two

bought originally to

Samuel Stevens, a car-racing enthusiast, in Rome, New York.

He liked the first so

much he ordered a second for

his mother. After his death the

second car was found in the

family garage and was eventually

acquired by Mr Carroll.

Sotheby's estimated it at £1.1

million-£1.3 million, but it

sold for £2.86 million.

Mr Stevens' first car, which

Mr Carroll acquired in 1985,

made £2.25 million (£1.34

million) to a private American

buyer. He also bought a 1932

Dusenberg, known as "the

French speedster", for £1.04

million.

A 1931 Model J supercharged

Mudd Coupe Dusenberg

made £1.87 million (£1.1

million) and a Model J con-

vertible Victoria went for

£850,000 (£506,000), both

bought by a classic car mu-

seum in Houston, Texas.

The auction was 100 per

cent sold. Afterwards, Mr

Ryzhkov contradicts Gorbachov on pace of economic reform

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

MR NIKOLAI Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, said at the weekend that the transition to a market economy would take many years and that it could, and should, be achieved without generating unemployment.

His statements, in a Soviet television interview, contrasted with remarks only 24 hours earlier by President Gorbachov to a Communist Party meeting here, where he said that reform had to be speeded up, and admitted for the first time that some unemployment was inevitable.

The contradiction suggests that important policy differences have still not been ironed out barely two weeks before the leadership is due to unveil its programme to re-

vive the economy. The programme has been delayed twice already.

Mr Ryzhkov, who has emerged in recent weeks as a champion of the cautious approach to economic change, said that with an estimated 10 million job vacancies in the Soviet Union there was no reason why anyone should be redundant. Denying that any Polish-style "shock therapy" was under consideration, he said that students, pensioners and others on low incomes would be "fully compensated" for any retail price rises, which would not be introduced until the beginning of next year.

Mr Gorbachov's remarks were made to a woman worker during a factory visit on Friday. Asked about the effect of the proposed reforms on jobs, he said: "There will be structural unemployment and, in fact, there is already." He added: "It is now clear that what takes two or three people to do here is done by one person in the West."

A fierce debate is being conducted by economists and consumers in the columns of all national newspapers. A stumbling block to the presentation of any reforms has been the use of the term "market economy", even in its watered-down, Gorbachovized version - the "planned-market economy". Citizens have been told for decades that the market is the law of the jungle, that it does not exist and that it fosters cruel divisions.

An opinion poll of Muscovites for *Izvestia* last week said that 58 per cent favoured the switch to a market economy and only half of those said it should be done quickly. In his weekend interview, Mr Ryzhkov said that retail

food prices would have to rise, but he gave an assurance that the price of staples - in which he included meat, milk, bread, butter, sugar and oil - would be controlled by the state. At present prices, milk and butter are permanently in short supply in many cities, bread is fed to livestock as being cheaper and more plentiful than fodder, and sugar is rationed. Meat is not often available in the provinces except at prohibitive prices.

Mr Ryzhkov's date of January 1990 for restructuring the Soviet price system is later than many people expect. Despite reassurances from President Gorbachov that nothing would be done without "full consultation with the people", the common expectation is that sweeping price rises will be introduced at or before the beginning of July.

July 1 is the date on which several pieces of new economic legislation come into force: the law on land use, which allows long-term leasing, and the law on property ownership, which allows private industrial activity.

In supporting the diversion of more funds to agriculture, Mr Ryzhkov was, deliberately or not, concurring with Mr Yegor Ligachov, the Central Committee Secretary for Agriculture, who said last week that far more money had to be spent on agriculture before any improvement could be expected. At present rates of subsidy, he said, the country would not be able to feed itself "now not and not in 10 years' time either".

Last year's offer by the state to pay in hard currency for above-quota production seems to have been too late and too complicated to have provided an incentive.

Mr Gorbachov repeated his offer of special status within a "renewed federation" at the weekend, in a letter asking for the views of President Arnold Ruutel of Estonia on what this special status should be. Mr Ruutel told the press that his Government had already made it clear that the offer "does not satisfy the aspirations of the Estonian people".

The former Latvian government delegation had responded to Mr Gorbachov's offer by raising the possibility of a "confederation" with the Soviet Union. This question was discussed further by the two sides at their last meeting on April 28, when the Latvians set out their view that it could only be between fully sovereign, independent states.

Presumably, Moscow expects it to be on tomorrow's agenda.

The chances of Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachov signing agreements to substantially reduce their chemical weapons stockpiles and to verify nuclear testing limits are still reasonable, but these are of secondary importance. Talks to reduce strategic nuclear weapons by up to 50 per cent have stalled because of disagreement on which cruise missiles should be included, and disputes over the definition of aircraft and helicopters are holding up talks on reducing conventional super-power forces in Europe.

In Washington, service chiefs have meanwhile presented Mr Richard Cheney, the Defence Secretary, with the long-term spending plans that he requested last autumn with a view to cutting the Pentagon's budget by two per cent a year in real terms.

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Another question is what effect the increasing moves towards a co-ordination of policy between the three Baltic states will have on the talks.

• Thatcher proposal: Mrs Thatcher is to raise Lithuania's demand for independence with Mr Gorbachov in Moscow next month, and will urge both sides to begin talking to each other.

The US Administration was particularly alarmed by the



Two students, masked to conceal their identities, setting fire to a book by Lenin during a rally yesterday in front of Moscow University

Kremlin moves to outlaw insults

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

IN AN attempt to prevent a recurrence of the anti-regime demonstration on May Day, the Soviet Parliament is considering a law that would make it an offence to insult the President.

The new offence, "publicly insulting the head of state of the Soviet Union", would carry a penalty of six years' imprisonment. If the offence was deemed to have been committed by a newspaper, publication could be suspended for an indefinite period.

Discussion of the draft law, formally entitled "Protecting the Honour and Dignity of the President", was begun without prior announcement at the Saturday session of the Supreme Soviet, but it failed to attract the required majority in one of the two chambers. As happened when the draft law to establish the presidency was rejected at its first reading, the Bill has been delegated to a special commission for redrafting before it is given a second reading. It is then likely to be passed without difficulty.

President Gorbachov, led the official party from their stand on top of the Lenin Mausoleum after informal groups turned the Red Square parade into a mass protest. He was clearly riled by the public display of hostility towards the Communist Party and his own leadership. Demonstrators carried placards calling on the Politburo to resign, and shouted "Down with Gorbachov" as he left the square.

The Bill applies only to personal insults, not to criticism of his policies or work. It was, none the less, strongly criticized in the Supreme Soviet for its loose definition of an "insult". Did it include jokes and cartoons? asked one deputy.

Leading article, page 13

Solidarity 'runs' aid to Ukraine

From A Correspondent
Warsaw

POLAND'S Solidarity movement is helping to undermine Soviet control of the Ukraine by supplying training and equipment for the republic's pro-independence group. The secret operation has the tacit approval of the Polish Government although it breaks Polish and Soviet law.

Solidarity's aid consists of printing equipment, duplicators, matrices and silk screens, which are smuggled across the Polish-Soviet border using a complex system of bribes. In the past fortnight Solidarity's international branch has also sent duplicators and matrices as "gifts" to nationalist front groups set up as co-operatives.

As soon as the co-operatives receive the equipment they disband and the duplicators disappear for use in illegal printing houses. Ukrainians able to reach Warsaw are being offered free lessons in printing techniques, distribution and propaganda training.

Mr Andrei Ananisz, the Solidarity member organizing the operation, said: "Solidarity has always had the philosophy that the further we can roll back Soviet control of Eastern Europe the more secure Poland will feel. We don't like smuggling but it is the only way to get equipment in."

Romanian gypsies flex new political muscles

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

AMONG the unsung beneficiaries of Romania's December revolution are the 2.3 million gypsies who are now struggling to overturn centuries of contempt as social pariahs and fashion themselves into a coherent political force in next week's general election.

In keeping with his general hostility to all national minorities, Nicolae Ceausescu attempted to put an end to the independence of a people who now describe themselves as "Romanian Romanies", to suppress their language and culture and absorb them into the Romanian majority.

Since his overthrow, the gypsies have enjoyed their first taste of political freedom

Romanies begging any more," said Mr Nicolae Dragusin, head of a new Romany trade union which plans to organize the gypsies into formal businesses to market their traditional skills as craftsmen and performing artists.

In keeping with the hypocrisy which marked Ceausescu's dictatorship, gypsy music was banned from radio and television on his orders, but played at his private parties. "His idea was that we did not exist as a people," said one young gypsy, Mr Dumitru Garlan. "Now that has changed. I hope it will end the contempt which most Romanians still feel for us."

The gypsies, who represent 10 per cent of the electorate, have quickly grasped that, once properly organized, they may be able to secure rights equivalent to those enjoyed by other national minorities, notably the Hungarians. They are mostly devout Christians, but under communist rule were banned from using their language in church or even having Bibles printed in it.

Gypsy spokesmen claim that, during the 24 years of Ceausescu's rule, the community suffered as greatly as during the Second World War, when they were forced to migrate to camps in Russia, where some 35,000 died.



Nicolae Ceausescu: Tried to curb gypsy culture

Bonn pushes for speedy unity

From Ian Murray, Bonn

KEEPING relentlessly to his timetable for reunification, Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, flies to Berlin this morning to meet Herr Lothar de Maizière, the East German Prime Minister and Christian Democrat (CDU) leader, to discuss remaining problems in the draft treaty on currency, economic and social union which was thrashed out here over the weekend.

The draft treaty is incomplete, with important omissions on points which deeply concern East Germany, where there are growing fears that economic union will lead to mass unemployment and social unrest. Last week tens of thousands of East Germans workers joined warning strikes against the known terms of economic union.

Weekend opinion polls show the CDU is now the strongest party in both Germanies, and the Chancellor is still trying to find ways of stopping West German investors buying up the entire country after monetary union. Frau Regine Hildebrandt, a Social Democrat who is the East German Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, is already calling for an amendment to the treaty before it is even passed.

The East Berlin Government argues, too, that the local population will just not have enough money to hang on to their property if they are not protected from speculators.

One idea is to stop anyone buying property unless they can prove that they are going to create jobs by doing so.

Although the Chancellor can expect the incomplete treaty to win approval from his own Government, Herr de Maizière is facing strong opposition from within his coalition, with the Social Democrat (SPD) members pressing him to win more

concessions from Bonn. Herr Stefan Hilsberg, the SPD party manager, said in an interview with *Bild am Sonntag* yesterday that some SPD ministers were threatening to resign unless more cash was made available, particularly for pensioners and to help run the health service.

He said a rash of protest strikes against the treaty was likely. The danger of that happening has even been acknowledged by Herr Peter-Michael Diestel, the Interior Minister.

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State polls blow for Kohl

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

HERR Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) are in danger of losing control of the Bundestag, the West German upper house, after yesterday's state elections in Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia.

First projections of the results last night showed that the CDU had failed to hang on to its narrow majority in Lower Saxony, where it has ruled for the past 16 years, in coalition with the Free Democrats (FDP) since 1986.

The Social Democrats (SPD) took over as the largest party, and were expected to win 70 seats compared with 67 for the CDU. This would enable them to form a coalition with the Greens, who

won nine seats - the same number as the SPD. This opens the way for another "red-green" coalition similar to that which has ruled West Berlin since January last year. Since then other "red-green" coalitions have taken control of the local authorities in several important cities, including Frankfurt.

In the other state election yesterday, in North Rhine-Westphalia, the SPD kept its overall majority, although it lost a tiny proportion of seats.

The "red-green" coalition in Lower Saxony will enable the SPD to take over the state's five seats in the Bundestag, which has to approve all legislation passed by the lower house. This would give the SPD a clear majority of 27-18 in the Bundestag, which the CDU has controlled until now with a majority of one.

The SPD will thus have power to block the legislation needed to pay for reunification. Herr Kohl has said the states will have to find a third of the costs for this out of their budgets, much to the anger of the SPD, which claims this will hit poorer areas.

Lower Saxony at present receives the equivalent of around £550 million a year in federal funds to help its depressed regions which stretch along the border with East Germany. Under Herr Kohl's plan the state will lose this and will be expected to find additional cash for East Germany.

A Times reader and his car are soon parted.



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SELL IT THROUGH THE TIMES

Colony fears ripple effect of US punishing China

From Charles Bremer, Hong Kong

HONG KONG will plunge into severe recession if the United States decides to punish China by ending its "favoured nation" trading status, a senior government official said at the weekend.

The forecast, by Mr Chris Jackson, the Assistant Director of Trade and Industry, was the strongest warning so far of the likely costs of a decision by Congress not to renew the privileged tariff levels when China's status comes up for renewal next month. President Bush is expected to approve continued Most Favoured Nation status rather than inflict by far the biggest US sanction against Peking over the Tiananmen massacre last June. However, sentiment in Congress is strongly against prolonging the privilege in order to signal disapproval of continuing repression of dissident.

Mr Jackson said Hong

Kong faced dire losses, up to 7 per cent of the territory's annual trade, which reached HK\$1.138 billion (£87.5 billion) last year. At least 20,000 jobs would be lost. "Withdrawal of China's Most Favoured Nation status would cause a recession in South China and here," he said.

While facing the loss of its privileged trade status, Peking is also being forced to consider a response to the challenge of the Goddess of Democracy radio ship, which sailed into port in Taiwan yesterday.

Sir David Wilson, the Governor, has sent a message to Mr Bush putting the Hong Kong case. A team of officials has also gone to Washington to draw attention to the impact on the colony, which acts as intermediary in about 25 per cent of China's overseas trade. "Punishing China", Mr Jackson said, "would be a 'nasty knock from a good friend at the wrong time for Hong Kong."

The loss of Chinese trade could prove devastating on top of the recent loss of business confidence in the colony, local businessmen believe. Depressed by a slowdown in world trade, and also by the uncertainties of the colony's future, the economy recorded a sharp drop in the final quarter of last year, according to figures released on Saturday. Production fell 3 per cent, a figure that has added to fears of a recession.

The Goddess of Democracy, a former British research ship manned by a collection of sailors and French journalists, clanked into the northern Taiwan port of Keelung to a noisy welcome from crowds of supporters, many of whom

launched flowers at the vessel. It is nearly two months since the Goddess, managed by a consortium led by the French *Actual* magazine, left La Rochelle with its scheme to beam dissident opinion into China for the month before the anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre.

The vessel plans to take on board two radio transmitters and start broadcasting music and "pro-democracy" news and interviews from international waters within a week.

If it succeeds, China will be forced to choose from three unattractive options, diplomats say. It can attempt to seize the vessel; it can try to jam its signals; or just ignore it. A military assault in international waters would cause an outcry just as Peking is attempting to persuade the US to maintain its trading status.

However, it is becoming clear that Taiwan, like Hong Kong and other governments in the region, has grown so nervous of Peking's wrath that it is anxious to avoid abetting a scheme it deems "a dangerous plot to subvert the authority of the communist state". Although officially in a state of hostility with China, Taiwan says it cannot support the radio ship because its broadcasts would break global laws against pirate broadcasting signed by Taipai.

It has told the ship that it will not be allowed back for resupply if it goes ahead with broadcasting. Given the lack of facilities elsewhere, this could severely hamper the enterprise. The "Boat for China Association", as the consortium is called, said Taiwan had also delayed the transmitters in Customs.

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gravity with which it views the venture, China sent one of its submarines to shadow the ship last week, surfacing long enough to be identified.

The rare sighting of a communist military craft close to the nationalist island sent a wave of anxiety through Taiwan on Friday, depressing the stock market among other things. But Mr Han Pei-tsun, the Defence Minister, said there was no cause for alarm.

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Indian exodus: Dispossessed people carrying salvaged belongings through the roads of the coastal city of Machilipatnam, escaping hunger and epidemics after the worst cyclone in eastern India in more than a decade. Four days after the cyclone hit the Andhra Pradesh coast with 145 mph winds, state officials said the death toll had risen to 322, with reports of more deaths coming in as relief workers reach marooned villages. Survivors yesterday searched for hundreds of missing friends and relatives. Mr Ramesh Babu, a resident of Machilipatnam, the port city at the heart of the

disaster area, said: "Yerrumudi had a population of 6,000 people and it's been completely wiped out. I fear most of them have perished." Tidal waves more than 20ft high surged 10 miles inland, sweeping away mud-hut villages and causing massive flooding. Helicopters have begun dropping food and water in the 1,400 villages marooned by floods or cut off by trees and power lines blocking roads. Mr Channa Reddy, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, said losses in the rich farmlands amounted to about £100 million. (Kesava)

Yemeni armed forces merged

CONSERVATIVE North and Marxist South Yemen have united their armed forces and agreed to withdraw them from their capitals in the latest swift move towards an historic merger due this month.

Officials and diplomats have predicted that a united Yemen would be declared before the end of May. The Sanaa-based weekly *26 September* quoted "reliable sources" yesterday as saying the declaration would come during the last week of May, six months ahead of schedule.

President Saleh of North Yemen said on Saturday that the security forces of both countries had been dissolved. "From now on there is no reason for the existence of the state security organ in Aden and the national security organ in Sanaa - both have been dissolved within the framework of the united state," Sanaa radio quoted him as saying. "It is our view that the capitals should be cleared of armed forces which should be withdrawn to defined military zones... rather than piling up weapons in the capitals."

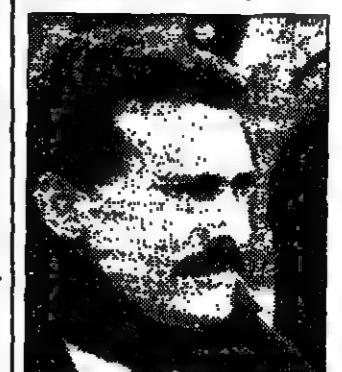
Diplomats here said the announcement cleared one of the main stumbling blocks to the merger. Colonel Saleh's Government has strong military support while South Yemen wants a clear separation between the state and military. "Armed forces will be moved to border areas of the new state and there will be a larger role in the cities for a unified police force," one diplomat said.

The weekly *26 September* said Colonel Saleh and Mr Ali Salem al-Baidh, the head of the ruling South Yemeni Socialist Party, would decide the date for a meeting between both parliaments at a summit in Aden. The parliaments are due to ratify a draft constitution approved in November, in the last important step before the unity declaration.

A joint ministerial meeting on May 20 will approve the rules of the merger process, the paper said. Diplomats and officials in North Yemen say the merger has been speeded up to forestall any attempts to undermine the creation of the new state of 12 million people. Saudi Arabia yesterday expressed renewed support for the union and denied a press report that it was trying to sabotage the move.

Initial plans called for the state to be announced by November 30 after a popular vote on the unity constitution. Diplomats say the referendum has apparently been scrapped and the six-month transition period initially envisaged extended to 2½ years to allow time for ministries to merge and political parties to form. Elections will be held at the end of that period.

Officials say Colonel Saleh will be named President of the united Yemen and Mr al-Baidh Vice-President. It was not known what would happen to President Abu Bakr al-Ahmar, the present South Yemen leader. (Reuter)



President Saleh: To head a united Yemeni state

Deng quashes rumours of death

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

CHINA'S reclusive elder statesman, Mr Deng Xiaoping, appeared in public for the first time in more than three months yesterday, scotching rumours that he was dead, which had affected stock exchanges on Friday morning.

Mr Deng met President Mubarak of Egypt, described by Chinese officials as "China's old friend". In a departure from normal practice, only Chinese and Egyptian reporters were allowed to witness the meeting.

Foreign journalists based in Peking have become avid Deng-watchers in recent years, analysing the slur in his speech and the glaze in his eye in an effort to get some inkling of his health. The last time they got a glimpse of him was in February, when he congratulated the drafters of Hong Kong's Basic Law. At that point, his speech was almost unintelligible but he walked unaided, if stiffly.

While no official information is forthcoming on how China's leaders manage in general to be so long-lived, many Chinese believe it is because they gather around them experts of Qigong to treat them. Qigong is an offshoot of Chinese medicine which involves an aura, or energy field, emanating from the hands of the doctor, which heals the patient without touching him.

China's Foreign Ministry had denied on Friday that Mr Deng was dead, but his appearance yesterday was clearly calculated to dispel any lingering doubts.

President Yang also put in a word vouching for Mr Deng's good health, saying at an airport press conference here yesterday that Mr Deng still played bridge.

Mr Deng no longer holds

any official post. On his retirement, he said the only foreigner he would see were "old friends" visiting Peking. It is a measure of China's closed door to the corridors of power that this 85-year-old, who is absent from the public eye for long stretches, is judged by diplomats and Chinese analysts alike still to be the emperor of China's Communist Party.

Those same analysts expect that Mr Deng's death, when it comes, may augur a period of ruthless political infighting and possibly renewed unrest on the streets of China's cities.

US airmen shot in Philippines

From Vyvyan Telesio, Manila

TWO American airmen were shot dead by suspected communist guerrillas outside Clark air base yesterday, on the eve of US-Philippines talks on the future of American military bases in the country.

The airmen were named by police as James Green, aged 21, and John Rayben, aged 22, both from the Kunsan air base in South Korea, on temporary duty in the Philippines. They were in civilian clothes and had just stepped out of an

hotel in Angeles city, 50 miles north of Manila, when they were shot.

Before the latest shooting the guerrilla New People's Army had killed eight Americans during the past 24 hours as part of its campaign to force the removal of American bases from the Philippines.

The Philippines and the United States today begin what could be protracted talks on the future of the six US military installations in the Philippines. Although there is growing anti-base sentiment in the Philippines as well as rising American criticism of President Aquino's Government, there is a strong belief among local analysts and Western diplomats that use of the two main bases, Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, will be extended for at least 10 years.

"Anything under 10 years will be difficult for the Americans to accept," said one Western observer. "They would of course prefer to have the lease run for another 25 years."

Analysts believe that the Philippines' Government's bargaining position has been considerably weakened after the right-wing coup attempt last December. They say that her Government, facing tremendous political, social and economic problems, is not prepared to risk losing sorely needed United States military and economic assistance that comes as an aid package in return for the use of the bases.

Analysts point to declining investor confidence in the Philippines which could fall drastically if the bases were closed down.

India considers banning sex determination tests

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

THE Indian Government is studying plans to ban amniocentesis to determine the sex of unborn children - a practice so widespread it is starting to make a discernible impact on the population.

The tests are used by vast numbers of pregnant women who are desperate to have only sons. Abortion is freely available under Government birth control programmes.

India already has substantially more men than women, and social workers say the gap is widening in areas of the country where doctors have established profitable sex-determination clinics. Within a few generations the practice could create a serious numerical imbalance between men and women. The male population has always been larger - there are 10 men to every nine women - because many unwanted girl babies are starved, poisoned or abandoned.

Many girls who survive are chronically malnourished, particularly in rural areas where the birth of a daughter is greeted with despair.

The arrival of a son, conversely, is a matter of great rejoicing, and boys generally grow up much stronger because they are given the best of whatever is available. A private survey in a district of the southern state

of Tamil Nadu found that 6,000 new-born girls had died of poisoning in the past 10 years. Most were fed oleander berries, which are deadly. Police never take action, since they lack manpower and forensic expertise - and, indeed, the will to tamper with such deep-rooted prejudice.

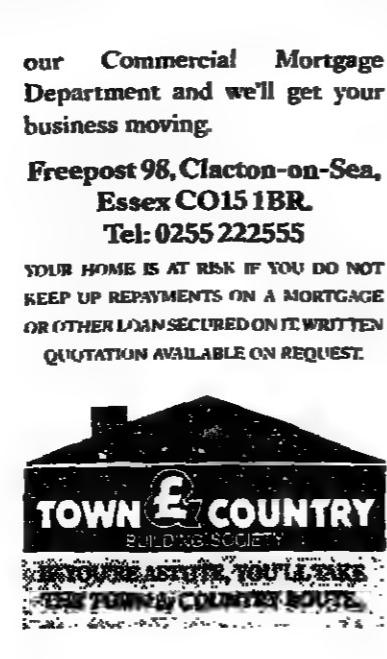
Girls are seen as a liability because they never bring home good wages, they require a dowry when they marry, they do not carry on the family name, and they are unable to care properly for aged parents because they live with their in-laws.

Sex determination is widespread, even in some of the remotest and poorest districts, because women are willing to travel enormous distances for amniocentesis. One wrote in a Delhi newspaper: "We concede a mother's right to choose to abort an unwanted pregnancy, yet we insist that her choice must be blind. Why must women be rendered criminals for wanting sons?"

Legislation outlawing sex determination is not only resented in rural areas, middle-class urban women, too, argue in favour of amniocentesis. One wrote in a Delhi newspaper: "We concede a mother's right to choose to abort an unwanted pregnancy, yet we insist that her choice must be blind. Why must women be rendered criminals for wanting sons?"

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COMMERCIAL MORTGAGES

Madagascar troops thwart coup attempt

Antoninov

REBELS seized the state radio station of the Indian Ocean republic of Madagascar early yesterday, but the Government quickly regained control after the coup attempt failed to secure mass support.

Security forces stormed the radio station and seized 11 rebels, who were armed with automatic rifles, pistols and knives, sources said.

The commando unit in the radio station had said it was speaking for previously unknown Republican Committee of National Salvation and took eight people hostage, all radio technicians and other employees. Several people

were injured when security forces moved in, firing shots in the air and hurling tear gas canisters, the sources said.

After several hours of confusion, the Government said it was in control. Four hours after the rebels seized Radio Madagascar, announcing a "republican government of public safety", the radio broadcast a communiqué from Lieutenant-Colonel Victor Ramahatra, the Prime Minister, saying "All institutions of the state are in place."

The rebels said their action was intended to end 15 years of dictatorship by President Ratsiraka and his family. (Reuters, AFP)

Pick of the Week



CHRISTIE'S

THIS IMPORTANT NETSUKE by the eminent maker Hara Shugetsu (1764-1771) was once in the collection of the connoisseur H.J. Joly. It was illustrated on the cover of his authoritative book on netsuke which was published in 1915 to raise funds for the Red Cross, but subsequently disappeared without trace. It recently surfaced in the collection of the late Ron Summerfield, the Cheltenham antiques dealer whose enormous collection provided the longest auction this century when sold by Christie's last autumn. It is included in the sale of Fine Netsuke, Inro and Pipe cases at Christie's King Street, on Wednesday, 16 May at 7.00 p.m., which will coincide with the International Netsuke Convention at the Park Lane Hotel from 12 to 19 May.

For further information on this and other sales in the next week please call Christie's 24-hour Auction Information Service on (071) 839 9060. 8 King Street, London SW1 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 164-166 Bath Street, Glasgow

An ivory netsuke of a South Sea Island drummer, signed Shugetsu, 18th century. 14.5 cm. high. Estimate: £10,000-15,000. (Reuters, AFP)

Ronald Butt

Labour fails to convince

The Labour Party is now benefiting greatly from public impatience with the Conservatives and from the urge for a change of some sort. That is why it did so well in the local elections. But it is also clear that the Conservatives retain the votes of many of the discontented whose decision is determined largely by their dislike of Labour. That is why, although the Tories did badly, they fared much better than the public opinion polls had suggested.

Negative voting, a feature in all elections, is particularly evident at the moment, and could be decisive when the general election comes. If, however, it is now principally of benefit to Labour, in the general election it is likely to be of much greater help to the Tories. For the moment, preoccupied with protest against the Government, the voters have been

content to draw reassurance from Mr Kinnock's successes in bringing the left to heel, from his acknowledgement of market forces and his new realism on defence. It may be different when the voters turn their minds to thinking in detail about what Labour would do in power.

It is now 24 years since Labour won a majority through its own merit. In both 1964 and 1966 the country was won by what was presented as a new model of social democracy shorn of extremism: classless, enterprising, efficient and in favour of planning by agreement, not compulsion. Labour has never enjoyed a real victory since. It was denied a proper majority in both elections in 1974, and Jim Callaghan's government came eventually to depend on the Liberal pact. Although the public had lost confidence in the Tories, it expressed an ingrained distaste for a Labour Party that had swung wildly to the left (with Mr Kinnock's approval at the time). The question now is whether Labour can again win votes in its own right.

John Smith is doing his best. He preaches market forces and recently declared that Labour would not connive at devaluation to allow for British inflation. Nor, he says, would Labour help companies that priced themselves out of the market or unions that priced workers out of jobs. But these are generalities. The question now is how far Labour can address itself to the practical concerns which will determine the votes it must win. That will be the test for the paper to be published later this month which brings up to date last year's policy review, *Meet the Challenge; Make the Change*.

For example, the new document will assert a concern for private investment and a wish for partnership with private industry. But will it unambiguously allay the doubts raised by Bryan Gould last year when he revealed that when the privatized utilities are taken

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

The old song tells us to "accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative", and a splendid pupil Mr Kenneth Baker has proved. For more than a week, his beaming presence has accentuated the positive side of losing 200 local government seats. This was followed on Friday by the announcement of the highest inflation figures for eight years.

"We are heading for the clearer, open sea, where the wind of public opinion can fill our sails!" chorused Mr Baker, wind of another kind filling his own sails.

History is full of bad news. Current affairs seems to admit of none. Perhaps things really have looked up. But my own analysis is simpler: the Ancients just lacked a Mr Baker.

Take the Exodus. After a formidable campaign by the Almighty, the only press release we have was that put out by His own press officer — Moses.

First, says this version, the Lord turned the Nile into blood "and the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank . . ." then "the frogs came up, and covered the land" following which "all the dust of the land became like."

That was just before "there came a grievous swarm of flies." Rather later, "all the cattle of Egypt died," then came "boils, breaking forth with blains upon man and upon beast." These boils heralded the hail, "and fire mingled with the hail."

Next came the locusts "and very grievous were they." While Pharaoh wavered, "there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days." Finally — for good measure — the Lord slaughtered all the Egyptian first-born. And off ran the Israelites, through the Red Sea.

So runs the Authorised Version. And we have no other version, for Pharaoh did not have Kenneth Baker as party chairman. Let us, though, try to imagine how Mr Baker would have handled this blip in the fortunes of Egyptian domestic politics.

Following the drowning of the greater part of Pharaoh's army, Mr Baker would have taken the initiative and called a press conference. "I would like to congratulate

Bernard Levin considers the claim by historian David Irving that

Hitler's gas chambers did not exist

Last week, a strange and harrowing event took place just outside Berlin. Representatives of Jewish communities from many lands had gathered for this year's World Jewish Congress; to hold it in Berlin must have been for many a fraught and traumatic experience. Yet more painful was their pilgrimage to Wannsee, hard by the city. Wannsee was the spot where the Final Solution, the extermination of all Europe's Jewry, was decided.

As befits a man of rather more intelligence and sophistication than the riff-raff of the earlier publications, Irving does not simply declare that no Jews were killed by the Nazis; indeed, he boldly admits that some were shot, some starved, some killed in air raids (well, that was the wicked Churchill's doing, of course), and some died in epidemics (including Anne Frank), and some froze to death. But there were no gas-chambers at Auschwitz or Treblinka or anywhere else, no mass killing, no Holocaust. Shucks.

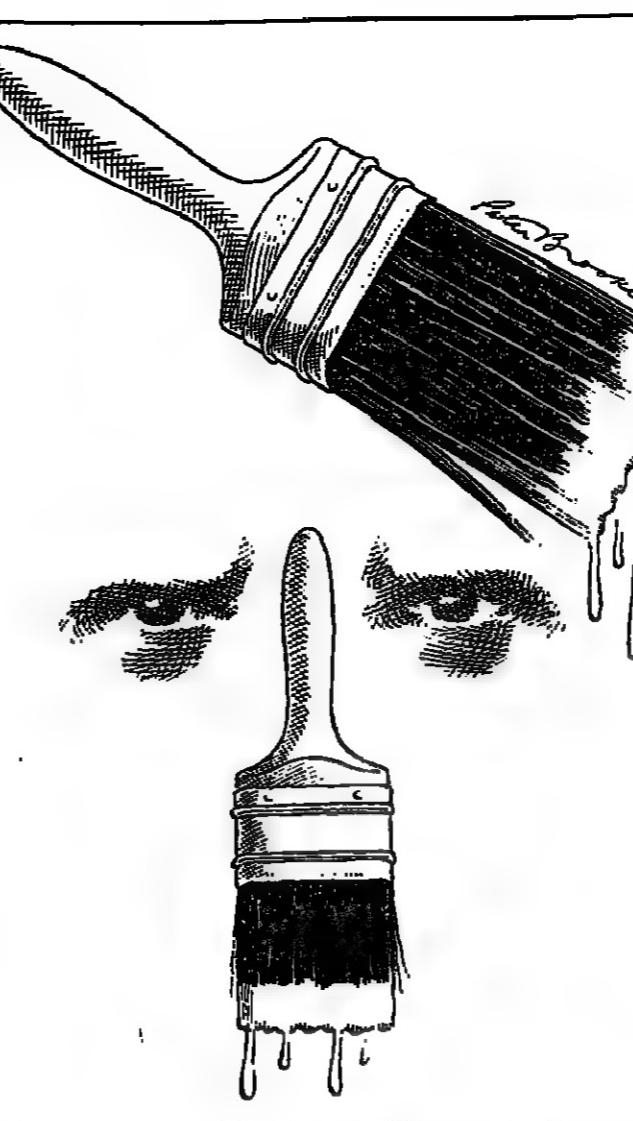
It is necessary, I think, to go back a little in the somewhat controversial life of Mr Irving. He first came to general notice in 1970, when he traduced a Second World War naval hero, Captain John Broome, was sued for libel, and ordered to pay £40,000 in damages, £25,000 being punitive damages for the outrageousness of his charges. (Last week I was criticizing massive libel damages; I must say that in this case the figures were fully justified.) Shortly afterwards, he sued for libel an author who had castigated him very strongly, only to throw it in his hand and run away from the proceedings on the day before he was due in court, after three years of procrastinating.

Irving is next found in 1977, writing a sympathetic biography of Hitler — again, it was not simply eulogistic, and indeed he was willing to admit that Hitler was a tribe anti-Semitic (very open and refreshing of you, sir) and that the SS was his creation. Ah, but Hitler had nothing to do with the Final Solution, indeed did not know about it until late in the war. He did, Irving agrees, know about the extermination of physically and mentally handicapped people, but that is all that. Summing up,

Irving said that if Hitler were put alongside Roosevelt, Truman and Churchill, he would be hard put to it to say which of them was the most callous.

From then on, Irving's admiration for Hitler has steadily grown, along with his denigration of Churchill, Hitler's most obvious opponent; at one point, he came up with the charge that Churchill had fiddled his income tax, and at another he asserted that he was an alcoholic and, for good measure, a coward. After that, Irving's conversion to the Holocaust News belief.

As anyone who has followed me this far will guess, Mr Irving, though he has now thrown in his lot with company he earlier avoided, has not lost all his subtlety. Although he insists that the gas chambers were imaginary, he agrees, the open-minded fellow,



his campaign to instal Hitler on a marble column, flanked not by a mere Three Graces but a dozen or more. If Hitler did not order the Holocaust, and found out about it only much later, why did he do nothing to stop the exterminations — as Irving says he did in the case of the handicapped? The answer, in Irving's logic, is that there could never have been any exterminations. Whence his conversion to the Holocaust News belief.

After a time, however, he realized — he is, after all, quite an intelligent man — that there was an intelligent man — that there was a gas chamber in the way of

that Jews did die in Auschwitz at the hands of Nazis — a total of 74,000, though of even this somewhat reduced number half died of natural causes. Nor has he gone back on his admission that Jews were done away with in other ways. But gas chambers? You must be — er — joking.

Irving is nothing if not consistent. He knew, of course, that Hitler had had no hand in the Holocaust, and he had said so. Now that he knows that there was no Holocaust anyway, he must go further: full rehabilitation is essential, and he tells us that he has "deleted every reference to 'factories of death' from the revised edition of my Hitler biography".

Yet there is still one barrier in his path, and again the careful historian must deal with it. He does not deny that in Germany and those countries which were to fall to the Nazis, there were millions more Jews than there were after the war. If the exterminations were mythical, what happened to those millions? Pause and see whether you can think up an ingenious answer, however mad, to that question; he had to, after all.

Give up? The Jews were whisked into new homes, lives and identities in the Middle East [sic! Israel], leaving their old, discarded identities behind as 'missing persons.' Here the *caveman* Abraham Cohen has become Isaac Goldberg, there the former Isaac Goldberg will answer to no name but Abraham Cohen; now a Stein becomes a Stern, and a Stern a Stein; anon Levy transmogrifies into Dreyfus and in the twinkling of an eye Dreyfus is Levy to the life. ("Did King Solomon call himself Saunders? Did Moses and Aaron call themselves Moss Bros?")

You may think I should have dismissed Irving's lunacies as I did *Holocaust News* and the mad old crone I met in Selfridges' food-store the other day, keening about the wickedness and ubiquity of the Jews to a quivering assistant whom she had pinned against the spring onions. You may be right. But when truly evil nonsense comes in the respectable garb of a historian, it is surely necessary to reveal him for what he is: a man for whom Hitler is something of a hero and almost everything of an innocent, and for whom Auschwitz is a Jewish deception.

David Taylor on Kenneth Clarke's dilemma as he seeks to establish priorities

Delicate surgery of hospital funding

Even if Kenneth Clarke succeeds in extracting extra money from the Treasury for his health service reforms, he will still face tough decisions over where to concentrate NHS funds.

The dilemma was starkly illustrated last Friday. That morning *The Times* published an eloquent letter from a surgeon, Richard Notley, describing how the closure of the urology ward at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, in the Tory heartland, could destroy the specialist service he and his team have built up over the past 20 years. At the same time the Government announced to the Scottish Conservative conference that Scotland was to receive a new £20 million heart transplant unit.

The logic of Mr Clarke's reforms, which are currently going through Parliament, is to devote as much money and responsibility as possible to purchasers at district level, or below, from where Mr Notley, and other district specialists look for their funding.

But there are also powerful arguments for supporting national and regional centres of excellence

for high-cost, low-volume treatments like heart transplants, or neurosurgery. The money for these centres is taken, or "top-sliced", from the total available before it is distributed among the districts, so reducing what is available at local level. Mr Clarke is unlikely to be able to please everyone.

Mr Notley's district, South West Surrey, was in the past relatively privileged in terms of health funding, but is now clearly under significant financial pressure. Last year, for instance, the increase in its cash budget was only about 4 per cent. Similarly this year the increase in its total resources will be well below the rate of inflation.

This pressure stems in part from the deliberate shift in the balance of NHS resources in favour of others, previously less advantaged areas of England. To a degree, also, the district's problems reflect the cost of success achieved by individuals like Mr Notley in the traditional NHS system.

If surgeons or physicians based in NHS hospitals attract patients

from other NHS districts, the receiving area has had to pay some of their costs. Unlike the situation in a private hospital, where normally more work brings more resources, excellence in the NHS has in the past tended to bring with it the threat of local cuts.

A key objective for the Working

For Patients reforms currently being introduced by the Government is that drawing in more patients from other parts of the NHS, should enable districts to increase their budgets rather than to exhaust them. This will help to ensure that units like that run by Mr Notley (which for the moment is continuing its work with 15 beds in another part of the Royal Surrey, rather than the 24 beds it had in the closed specialist ward) will not end up as losers. But like all other radical treatments, even this part of the Government's plan for a better NHS has its risks and potential complications.

First, it will work only if there is enough money in the NHS to allow the internal market to function appropriately. Roger Freeman, who moved from the

Department of Health to Transport just a week ago, has acknowledged that this year overall NHS cash growth may barely equal that required by inflation alone. Mr Clarke's reported demands to the Treasury for £3 billion extra would amount to little more than 10 per cent of the 1990 health budget.

And second, within the service, health authorities must play their new purchasing role with adequate objectivity. If instead of buying the best available in the NHS internal market they merely buy what is cheapest locally, some NHS specialist services could be exposed to new threats. That is unlikely to apply to units such as Mr Notley's, which treat relatively common conditions and diseases. But in the high-cost, low-volume fields, the danger is considerable.

The Department of Health is now facing difficult decisions about where to devolve more resources for district-level purchases once the new system is in place, and where to make firm provisions for protecting vulnerable centres of excellence through

continuing the practice of "top-slicing". But consultants in units with regional responsibilities in specialities such as cystic fibrosis or radiology fear that future developments might undermine their existing centres.

Committed individuals like Richard Notley are clearly right to fight for adequate funding for the services they know their patients need. We should all be grateful to him, and those like him. But some sympathy should also be reserved for those whose less popular "surgical" task is to manage the financial aspects of health care and to divide limited resources between many deserving ends.

Nearly every public opinion survey finds in favour of more spending on the health service. But we have to accept that more cash, whether at national and regional, or local district level, requires other choices — for example, fewer BMWs, and fewer roads to run them on.

The author is Fellow in Health Policy Analysis at the Kings Fund Institute.

Tightening the purse strings

A Cabinet ministers line up to press John Major for an extra £15 billion in public expenditure next year. Labour's spending plans — or at least those it will disclose — are beginning to seem modest by comparison.

Kenneth Clarke reportedly wants an extra £3 billion to buy off public anxiety about the NHS before the next election. Yet when Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, last month publicly raised the prospect of increased expenditure on the NHS under a Labour government, he was directly warned by the Labour leadership to avoid any pledges to specific expenditure which Conservative Central Office could cost.

Both Cook and John Smith, the shadow chancellor, deny any row, but any potential Labour minister who makes detailed spending commitments is putting himself on a collision course with Smith and Margaret Beckett, the shadow first secretary to the Treasury. Their parsimonious approach almost makes Major look like a spendthrift.

A senior Labour source says: "As you know, frogs are an endangered species. I am pleased to announce that, under our new Green policies, there has been an increase of almost spectacular proportions in the population of these valuable bio-indicators.

"Change brings its problems. It would be idle to deny that recent developments have been without inconvenience for some of our people. But the underlying trend is still strongly upwards. I think you will agree, gentlemen, that — under the inspired leadership of Mrs Margaret Thatcher — things can only go up."

review, published last year, was carefully filed by Gordon Brown to remove any specific spending commitments. A similar approach has been adopted for Labour's new policy document, to be published next week, which will form the basis of its election manifesto.

Tory Central Office concedes privately that the exercise has worked: it has still not managed to put a figure on Labour's plans, though a team of City economists reckons they will cost £18 billion. But even that does not measure up to the £15 billion increase in 1991 spending programmes which ministers are now said to be seeking — on top of the £12.3 billion already approved. Central Office is reduced to saying of the Labour programme: "It will all end in tears."

Atom bombe

The Royal Society is not the place one would expect to find a cookery demonstration, but its rarified intellectual atmosphere was disturbed last week by the culinary aromas created by Nicholas Kurti, Professor Emeritus of Physics at Oxford. The Romanian-born professor, who is 81, lists his recreations in *Who's Who* as "cooking, enjoying its results and judiciously applying physics to the noble art of cooking". Combining his two great loves, he showed the audience of scientists and food industry executives how to produce soft-boiled egg free of any risk of salmonella — by immersing it in water at 62° for 20 minutes. Then he provided a logic-defying baked Alaska with hot jam in the centre of an iced meringue. He also

explored as charlatans those restaurateurs who offer fresh pine-apple sorbet. The fruit's "unique chemical structure" rendered such a concoction impossible — and he proved it with the aid of complex chemical formulae. But, it seems, the demonstration was a one-off, and the Royal Society has no plans to confer honorary membership on TV cooks Keith Floyd or Fanny Cradock or on our own estimable Frances Bissett.

Just like Mafeking

Goverment whips in the House of Lords will be greatly relieved tomorrow when the first of the nine recently announced Tory life peers is introduced. Two new Labour peers, Lords Clinton-Davis and Lord Morris of Castle Morris, were introduced on separate days last week, and within hours each found himself tipping the balance as the Government lost two separate amendments to the Community Care Bill by a single vote. To make matters worse, on the second occasion on Thursday, one of the Tory absences was none other than Lord Denham, the Government chief whip. Al-

though Mrs Thatcher nominated only five new Labour peers to the Tories' nine, the Government lost those two votes simply because the Opposition was quicker off the mark in getting its newly ennobled into the Chamber. Labour now fears that next time Mrs Thatcher will be tempted to stack the odds even more in Tory favour.

Whistle-stop

N ot even the Vatican is immune from the World Cup fever now sweeping Italy. The Pope, perhaps intrigued by Diego Maradonna's attribution of the controversial goal that put England out of the last World Cup to "the hand of God", has asked for a ticket for the final in Rome's Olympic Stadium in July. Although his presence has not been

confirmed, the Vatican is certainly taking the World Cup seriously.

There will be a "special event" for fans and players in the Rome basilica, where paintings of the life of Christ will be on show. Clergy in the 12 cities where matches are to be played will confirmed, the Vatican is certainly taking the World Cup seriously. There will be a "special event" for fans and players in the Rome basilica, where paintings of the life of Christ will be on show. Clergy in the 12 cities where matches are to be played will

Are you sure he's an England supporter?



Cashing in

The demise of apartheid in South Africa is reflected in a decision by the Reserve Bank to remove the unfashionably long-haired portrait of Jan van Riebeeck, leader of the first Dutch settlers at the Cape, from banknotes and replace it with an assortment of wildlife. Carefully avoiding any reference to the changing political landscape, it says the move will prevent counterfeiting and meet the requirements of sophisticated sorting machines. The ANC, meanwhile, is to register its once-banned and now ubiquitous spear-and-shield emblem as a trademark. The purpose, a spokesman says, is "to ensure that merchants cashing in on our popularity do so with our approval" — and at the same time swell ANC coffers.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

DEVOLVE AND RULE

Not since the palmy days of 1955 has the Conservative and Unionist Party achieved more than 50 per cent of the Scottish popular vote. Today, with only 10 out of 72 Scottish seats at Westminster, the strain on the authority and credibility of the Tories is severe. It is increasingly difficult for the party to sustain the concept of government by consent other than by appeals to the concept of Union. The Scottish electorate continues to return a rising number of Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates, and to think nationalist thoughts.

Mrs Thatcher, who is by way of being an English nationalist, travels north several times a year to give her personal attention to this tiresome state of affairs. She had a busy time on Saturday, sailing down the Clyde in a nuclear submarine and dining in Edinburgh Castle with the Scottish Rugby Union. "A woman's work is never done," she confided to the Tory faithful in conference in Aberdeen. She also told them that the Opposition was trying to breathe new life into the "corpse of socialism" which virtually every country in Europe was burying "full fathom five".

Yet certain other countries in Europe are breathing life into a perhaps more potent ism which she did not mention: small country nationalism. If the unthinkable is now being thought in Lithuania, similar mental processes are at work in the land of Calvin and oatcakes, the Thatcher family attachment to Glencairn and Glenlivet notwithstanding. The Conservative Party asserts with justice that it is the party which offers people more say in the running of their own affairs. This sits oddly with its recent treatment of Scotland, both over devolution generally and in the imposition on that country of the poll tax as a somewhat bizarre political experiment.

The Tories last flirted seriously with some form of Scots devolution in the late seventies. Mrs Thatcher herself, a year into her leadership, assured a meeting of prospective candidates at the Perth conference in 1977 that "there will definitely be a Scottish Assembly". The 1979 manifesto merely pledged "discussions" on a future Scots government, a pledge that remains unfulfilled.

The Conservatives were quick to see that the assembly proposals, then also being hawked by a Labour government desperate for minority

PRESIDENT COLLOR'S CRUSADE

President Collor de Mello's decision to cut Brazil's overblown civil service by more than a quarter within one month, abolishing around 360,000 jobs, is as audacious as the assault on hyper-inflation he launched on taking office in March. Nowhere in the world, certainly nowhere in Europe, has 20th-century bureaucratic centralism found so determined an opponent.

The Cabinet meeting at which he delivered the ultimatum to his ministers, and also committed his Government to privatize one state enterprise a month from July, was conducted under the gaze of television cameras. President Collor's strategy for taking the Brazilian economy by storm has relied on popular support to overcome the resistance of congressmen and bureaucrats.

Cutting the state payroll is essential if President Collor is to come near his target of reducing public spending by £12 billion this year. Unless he does, his victory over inflation, which has been reduced to near-zero from 4,854 per cent, will be short-lived. The head of Brazil's central bank contends that while inflation has been knocked down, the referee has only counted to three.

Critics say that the merger of ministries and closure of agencies will paralyse the federal administration just when it is charged with implementing the most radical economic shake-up in Brazil's history. That would carry more weight if it were not that thousands of Brazil's 1.6 million "maharajahs", as the civil service élite is called, owe their jobs to political patronage and are notoriously under-employed.

Those guaranteed job security under the 1988 constitution will not be sacked, but will be put "in reserve", on reduced pay. Since most civil service perks, such as cars and free

party votes, would burden Scotland with an additional layer of bureaucracy and might potentially threaten the Union. Since four out of five Scots vote for parties that support the Union, the Tories reverted to the view that the only sensible posture was to endorse the status quo. This view has the support of much of the business community. The chief executive of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce told the Aberdeen conference that a devolved Scottish assembly with tax-raising powers would make Scotland the most heavily taxed part of the United Kingdom.

This, however, no longer meets the bill of Scots voters deeply sceptical of the deeds of Westminster even where they stop short of full devolution, let alone independence: a scepticism believed to be shared by Mrs Thatcher's able secretary of state, Mr Malcolm Rifkind. If the tide of public opinion is to be turned, Conservative politicians must shed their intellectual lethargy and come up with some new ideas, or a more sympathetic approach to old ones.

A starting point could be the oldest of them all, to establish the parliamentary Scottish Grand Committee in Edinburgh, with the Secretary of State answerable to them. There are many problems in this, notable that of a cabinet minister having to answer in Scotland to an overwhelmingly hostile political audience. But that might be no bad thing – as many a colonial administrator has known to his pain but potential benefit. The committee could at least debate, on Scottish soil, a range of functions either delegated or feasible to delegate to St Andrew's House, including the legal system, education, transport and most of local government. Such a committee could even be given discretion over the Scottish budget within overall Treasury cash limits.

Above all, the Grand Committee could turn its mind to the simplification of the structure of local government introduced in Scotland in 1973. The substitution of a system of one-tier, all-purpose councils would shift bureaucracy and increase local accountability. The Government could also win political points north of the border by permitting the Scots once again to take the lead in the reform of local finance – as they were compelled to do in 1989. When it comes to "rethinking the poll tax", Scots MPs of all parties might start the process

houses, are already being withdrawn. Senhor Collor hopes the recipients will feel the draught and head for the private sector. But the private sector has been savagely disrupted by the President's game of Russian roulette with the Brazilian monetary system. His crusade against inflation began with an 18-month freeze on some £70 billion in individual and company savings and deposits; new taxes (including a wealth tax); dramatic reductions in government subsidies and liberalization of imports.

These measures have been immensely successful so far, but monetary stability has been purchased at the cost of a sharp recession. Industrial production fell by a quarter in March alone, and the automobile, steel and capital goods industries are operating at a fraction of capacity. Hundreds of thousands of workers in the construction industry have been laid off and, ominously for the President's standing with the "shirtless and barefooted", the informal economy is also hard-hit.

The Government now faces the delicate task of averting long-term recession without reigniting inflation or recreating the corrupt cartel relationship between government and business which President Collor has staked his reputation on breaking. The civil service cuts, and the privatization of Brazil's feather-bedded state enterprises, will need to be as drastic as promised to provide the revenue to inject into productive enterprise.

Brazil's foreign creditors were told this month to wait for their money. They have every interest in being patient. Brazil, with half South America's population and long described as a country with a great tomorrow, might be on the brink of realizing its potential as the power house of a continent.

CELEBRITY GAMBIT

Those drumming fingers of President Gorbachov, as he was booted off Lenin's Mausoleum on May Day, suggest that an organized anti-communist opposition might well be a serious matter. If *glasnost* means anything, the Soviet public will soon learn that one of its darlings, the world chess champion, Mr Gary Kasparov, has given his blessing to a new political party, the Radical Democrats, dedicated to ending the communist ascendancy.

In Britain, second only to the Soviet Union at Mr Kasparov's game, people would scoff at a party which made much of an endorsement by a chess champion. Chess masters are at best seen as unworthy, at worst as monomaniacs. Who cares how Mr Nigel Short or Mr Jonathan Speelman cast their votes?

Mr Gorbachov, however, knows that the Russians were crack chess-players long before the Revolution. "And I suppose the ringleader is that Herr Bronstein from the chess room," declared the head waiter at the Café Central in Vienna in November 1917. It was. Not only Trotsky, but Lenin and Stalin too revered their game. Chess masters flourished under their patronage – but only when they avoided politics.

Mr Kasparov's intervention was couched in the uncompromising style which (along with youth, good looks and membership of the Moscow fast set) has helped to make him not merely a chess genius, but a celebrity. He is reported to have told his former ghost-writer, Mr Donald Treford, that Mr Gorbachov "is an *apparatchik*, and will always stay that way". This is fighting talk. Were Mr Kasparov not the one of his most valuable ambassadors to the West, Mr Gorbachov would make him rue his words. The Soviet state still controls the lives of its sportsmen in countless insidious ways.

What are the Soviet Union's millions of chess-players to make of it all? Brought up to believe in a "Soviet school of chess", they came to regard the royal game as virtually Soviet property. Since the rise of Mr Kasparov, however, a question mark has hung over this last, fragile realm of Soviet supremacy. Would the world champion follow the path of emigration chosen by so many Soviet artists and, indeed, chess masters?

If Mr Kasparov does indeed intend to take an active part in Soviet politics, the answer would seem to be no. But this raises another question. Does he hope to become a keeper of the nation's conscience, of the improbable kind that totalitarian systems seem to cast up in their death agonies? In the West celebrities do sometimes enjoy political careers: President Reagan and Miss Glenda Jackson hail from screen and stage, Senator Bill Bradley and Mr Bob Hawke from sport, Herr Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker from nuclear physics. But there seems to be no vacancy in the older democracies for the role which the late Andrei Sakharov created for himself in the Soviet Union, or Mr Vaclav Havel now has in Czechoslovakia.

Just as Sakharov sacrificed both the privileges of an academician and a brilliant career as a physicist for the sake of his beliefs, just as Mr Havel saw none of his plays performed for two decades and has now ascended another kind of stage altogether; so Mr Kasparov must know that his political ambitions put at risk his pre-eminence in the empyrean of the 64 squares. Unless he is prepared for defeat, both in politics and at the board, his brave words will be in vain. As an Armenian and a Jew, Mr Kasparov can have few illusions. But he is, an

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Employee vetting by police records

From Mr Bill Heperton

Sir, Your report (May 8) on the growth of pre-employment vetting by police records is to be welcomed. However, as a local government research and policy officer with some experience in this area, I feel that the comments of Miss Kate Main of the Association of County Councils contained in your report, provide your readers with a false sense of reassurance.

At present, there is no agreed guidance at local authority level on how selection panels and others should assess the "relevance" or otherwise of someone's criminal background. Therefore, it is perfectly possible for a person with a particular criminal record to be refused a post in one authority and to be offered an almost identical post with a neighbouring authority.

Similarly, there is no agreed local authority-level training available to officers having to make these difficult decisions. Some authorities have invested considerable time and effort into integrating matters raised by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974) and reasons for the various exemptions into their recruitment and selection procedures. Others offer no training whatsoever.

In addition, there is no agreed appeals procedure for those refused employment based on police record checks.

Given that the Home Office informs us that around 10 per cent of the population has some form of criminal record and that soon there may not be many jobs left in the economy which are not covered by vetting arrangements, it is of great importance that practical concerns are fully and openly addressed. Equally, there needs to be a recognition of the dangers inherent in the murky

moral arena in which vetting now assumes pride of place.

Yours sincerely,
BILL HEPERTON,
660 Radcliffe Road,
Derry Lever,
Bolton, Lancashire.

From Mr Terry Thomas

Sir, Your report, "Huge growth in vetting by police records", throws a welcome light on a murky system. The Commons Home Affairs Committee report on the subject in April triggered the debate, and asked three main questions to whom should the records be available? What information should be disclosed? And how can we be sure information relates to the right person?

The committee has, however, missed an equally significant fourth question. How do you use information disclosed to make a proper vetting decision? In other words how do you make sense of past behaviour to try to judge future behaviour? How do you account for concepts of rehabilitation, or the relevance of old offences? How do you account for the passage of time, over many years in some cases?

The Home Affairs Committee may say these are not their questions to answer. In which case whose questions are they? And is anyone asking them? Are personnel managers or others involved with selection taking any more than a common-sense approach that just follows a prejudicial rule of thumb? If they are not, then a reported million checks a year with no indicators of effectiveness are not much more than an act of faith.

Yours faithfully,
TERRY THOMAS,
Leeds Polytechnic,
Department of Social Studies,
Calverley Street,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Abortion limit

From Mr David Martin, MP for Portsmouth South (Conservative)

Sir, Nigel Cameron, Editor of *Ethics and Medicine* (May 2), described the vote in the House of Commons abandoning any upper time limit under the 1929 Infant Life Preservation Act as profoundly disturbing and largely unintended. He believes it should not be allowed to stand.

Many people do not realize that the 1929 Act never applied to Scotland, where the only legislative basis is the 1967 Abortion Act which contains no time limits. There do not seem to have been any developments along the lines flared by Dr Cameron.

Now the law will be the same for all. I have no doubt the same high standards of the medical profession and ethics will apply throughout England and Wales as in Scotland for the last 23 years.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MARTIN,
House of Commons.

Museum cuts

From Professor D. T. Donovan

Sir, The Natural History Museum's new corporate plan is wholly illogical. What the trustees and management do not seem to realize is that the very business of curating its collections and property identifying and cataloguing them is the major skill in which the museum is unrivalled, and in the only "marketable expertise" which the museum can offer.

This sometimes (but not always) unctuous "routine" work is the bedrock of all research in biology. Although the staff have a wide range of ancillary skills, the museum cannot transform itself overnight into a consultancy on ecology or some other temporarily fashionable field. Its existing skills are the only ones that it can legitimately offer. It should cherish them carefully during the present difficult times.

Yours faithfully,
D. T. DONOVAN,
52 Willow Road, NW3.

Wannsee ceremony

From Mr Michael May

Sir, We are both astonished and insulted at the suggestion made in your dispatch from West Berlin that Elie Wiesel, who penned the moving words for the World Jewish Congress ceremony at the Wannsee villa, had absented himself for political reasons (early editions, May 9).

What the report suggests is a harmful distortion in view of Mr Wiesel's long and close relationship with the WJC. Indeed, Mr Wiesel specifically drafted the poignant tribute read by WJC delegates at the moving ceremony

at the explicit request of WJC President Edgar M. Bronfman.

Mr Wiesel had made it clear, in news accounts which appeared one week earlier, that he was unable to attend because of prior scheduling commitments, and that he was demonstrating his solidarity with the World Jewish Congress in composing the powerful lines to be read on the occasion of the May 8 commemoration.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MAY
(Director, UK Office),
World Jewish Congress,
11 Herford Street, W1.
May 10.

promise with evil. It has been set in London because Havel's concern has been equally for the dangers of compromise in the West as under dictatorship.

It is also a disservice to President Havel to suggest that he may be embarrassed when he comes to London.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH S. WILLIAMS
(Producer, *Temptation*),
Chairman,
Westminster Productions Ltd.,
Westminster Theatre,
Palace Street, SW1.
May 11.

promise with evil. It has been set in London because Havel's concern has been equally for the dangers of compromise in the West as under dictatorship.

The world does not need Mr Gray to tell it what John Lennon would or would not have liked.

Shame on him.
Yours etc.,
DAVE EDMUNDSON (Musical Director, "The Lennon Tribute"),
Polka Union,
19-21 Preston Road, W1.
May 9.

life. When the concert is shown around the world on the next anniversary of John's birth, it will become apparent how unnecessary viciousness this "review" was. Anyone who saw the broadcast will already know, it was not a "musical disaster".

The world does not need Mr Gray to tell it what John Lennon would or would not have liked.

As I stood with the other artists on stage at the end of the evening, the 70-piece orchestra playing behind us, and the 20,000 Liverpudlians all singing "Imagine" in front, I can proudly say I have never been more moved in my

music culture, seemed regrettably subdued.

In sharp contrast, however, were the performances of Joe Cocker, who retains a rare talent for delivering a Lennon/McCartney song in a way which transcends the original version.

The combination of the Philharmonic Orchestra and the Tribune Band brought a richness and depth to many of the performances and served to remind us of the pioneering work of the Beatles in using innovative orchestral arrangements on their recordings.

What about the choice of venue? Surely there can only have been two choices for such an event.

New York, where Lennon lived out the latter part of his life, or Liverpool, where he and the Beatles were born.

True, the city is sometimes violent and aggressive (name me one that isn't) but no doubt those other rival locations mentioned by Mr Gray, New York and Los Angeles, can show the world some fine examples of the darker side of human nature. Perhaps in the end Mr Gray's preferred waterfront location would have been Henley-on-Thames.

Yours truly,
A. G. CARR,
Cefn Maen, Mountain Lane,
Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd.
May 10.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number (071) 782 5046.

Stepping up the 'poverty trickle'

From Mr Danny Levine

Sir, Your second leader of May 8 ("The poverty trickle") helps to focus attention on the fact that the poorest have not shared – relatively or absolutely – in the prosperity of the majority of this country's citizens over the last few years. That comes as no surprise to those of us who provide services all year round to people in acute need.

The problem, however, goes deeper than your leader suggests. The "trickle-down" theory is not proven domestically or internationally. The Government have been told that fact but have chosen not to listen. Instead, those campaigning against poverty are dismissed as "the shrill voice of vested interests".

Not is that the end of the story. In April, 1988, as part of the social security reforms inaugurated by Norman Fowler, there were massive cuts in housing benefit, on the grounds that "too many people" were dependent on State welfare (*sic*). Today, as a result of further massive rent increases, as well as poll tax, history seems set to repeat itself. Once again Government ministers defend by Government ministers on the grounds that low-income families would qualify for rent and rate rebates. Yet now the official estimates of living-standard changes since 1979 include the rebates as part of net income, without mentioning the hugely increased rents and rates paid out.

More is that the end of the story.

The problem, however, goes deeper than your leader suggests.

The "trickle-down" theory is not proven domestically or internationally. The Government have been told that fact but have chosen not to listen. Instead, those campaigning against poverty are dismissed as "the shrill voice of vested interests".

More people will qualify for rent rebates and more (over two million more) will qualify for the new community charge benefit. Of those who claim, none will be "better off" in the usual meaning of the word, although they will lose less than they otherwise would.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 12: The Prince Edward, Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this afternoon attended a Garden Party at Peterhouse College, Cambridge.

The Princess Royal attended the Commissioning Ceremony of HMS *Talant* at Barrow-in-Furness and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cumbria (Sir Charles Graham, Bt).

Mrs Andrew Feilden was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 13: The Duke of Gloucester this morning arrived at

Heathrow Airport at the conclusion of his visit to Canada and the United States of America. Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
May 12: The Duke of Kent, President of the Football Association, accompanied by The Duchess of Kent, this afternoon attended the Final of the Football Association's Challenge Cup Competition at Wembley Stadium.

Mrs Alan Henderson and Mr Andrew Palmer were in attendance.

Birthdays today

Miss Francesca Annis, actress, 45; Dr Hastings Banda, life President of Malawi, 85; Mr Guy Bith, yachtsman, 50; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, 65; Mr Denis Canan, dramatist, 71; Sir Eric Chapple, former manager director, International Thomson Organisation, 62; Sir Alan Green, chairman, BTR, 65; Lord McAlpine of West Green, 48; Miss Sian Phillips, actress, 56; Sir Peregrine Rhodes, diplomat, 65; Sir Adam Ridley, executive director, Hambros Bank, 48; Mr Leslie Sharp, chief constable, Cumbria, 54; Mrs Patricia Turner, trades unionist, 63.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Gainsborough, Sudbury, Suffolk, 1727; George Barrington, pick-pocket and writer, Maynooth, Co Kildare, 1755; Robert Owen, social reformer, Newton, Powys, 1771; Sir Squire Bancroft, actor-manager, Rotherhithe, 1841; Otto Klempner, conductor, Breslau, Germany, 1883.

DEATHS: Matthew Gregory Lewis ("Monk Lewis"), Gothic novelist, at sea, 1816; August Strindberg, dramatist, Stockholm, 1912; Edmund Allenby, 1st Viscount Allenby, field marshal, Southern, Nottinghamshire, 1936; Sir William Dobell, painter, 1970.

The victory of the English barons over Henry III at the battle of Lewes, 1264.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend a British Horse Society gala evening in Aylesbury at 7.30. The Princess Royal, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit Durham County Hall at 10.10 to review the partnership between the fund, the Probation Service and Social Services. She will open the new building for Sedgfield Magistrates' Court and Probation Services, Newton Aycliffe, at 3.00 and will attend the Company of Cutlers in Hallsworth's feast at Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield, at 7.00.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the twenty-first anniversary year of the Westminster Pastoral Foundation, will attend the annual luncheon at the London Tavern at 12.40.

Marriages

Mr N.Y.J. Kirkpatrick and the Hon Joanna FitzRoy Newdegate

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester attended the marriage on Saturday at the Collegiate Church of Saint Mary, Warwick, of Mr Nicholas Kirkpatrick, second son of Mr and Mrs John Kirkpatrick, of Horn Park Beaumaris, Dorsset, to the Hon Joanna FitzRoy Newdegate, daughter of Viscount and Viscountess Daventry, of Temple House, Arbury, Nuneaton, Warwickshire. The Bishop of Warwick officiated, assisted by the Rev Stephen Little.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Emma Wiggin, Lucy Kirkpatrick, Francesca Rabl, Laura Wintour, the Hon James Finch-Knightley, George Fetherstonhaugh and Johnnie Remington-Hobbs. Mr Christopher Brooks was best man.

A reception was held in Arbury and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr P.G. Bailey and Miss G.A. White

The marriage took place on Saturday at St. Swithun's, Combe near Newbury, of Mr Philip Bailey, younger son of Mr and Mrs Alan Bailey of London, W2, and of Lady Mary Russell, of Combe Manor, Combe, to Miss Georgia White, daughter of Mrs Barbara Makins, of St Leonards, Sussex, and Mr G.M.C. White, the Rev C.T. Copey and Father Terence V. Healy, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by Mr Simon White, brother, was attended by Oliver Lytton, Benedict Lytton, Arthur Purbrick, George Bunning, Isabel Church, Helen Richards and Harriet Titmus. Mr Anthony Bailey was best man.

A reception was held at Combe Manor and the honeymoon will be spent in Indonesia.

Mr M.W.H. Bowden and Dr C.L. Davis

The marriage took place on Saturday, April 28, at St Peter's Church, Oadby, between Mark Bowden, elder son of Captain and Mrs R. Bowden, of Titchfield, Hampshire, and Carol Davis, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs J.L. Davis, of Oadby, Leicestershire. The Rev. the Rev David Clark officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Helen Lydford-Davis. Lt Commander John Worton was best man.

The Hon R.T.C. Edwards and Miss O.G. Brown

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Margaret's Westminster Abbey, of the Hon Rupert Edwards, only son of Lord and Lady Crickhowell, and Miss Olivia Brown, younger

daughter of Mr Colin Brown and Lady Margaret Glasse. The Rev Philip Chester officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by the Hon Sophie Edwards, the Hon Olivia Edwards and Miss Ailsa Clark. Mr George Hollingbery was best man.

A reception was held at the House of Lords and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr V. Lindsay and Miss H. Whittome

The marriage took place on Saturday in Douai Abbey, Reading, of Mr Valentine Lindsay, younger son of the late Hon Patrick Lindsay, and of Lady Amabel Lindsay, of 12 Lansdowne Road, W1, to Miss Haley Whittome, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Rex Whittome, of Willowhayne House, Sutton, Peterborough. Father Geoffrey Scott officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Alan Brookbank, Daisy Fraser, the Hon Sophie Hesketh, Adam Waymouth and Miss Tiffany Whittome.

Mr William Lovelady was best man.

A reception was held at Folly Farm, Hungerford, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr J. McCracken and Miss E.M. Goodison

The marriage took place on Saturday, April 28, at St Alبان's, Fulham, of Mr John McCracken and Miss Eleanor Goodison.

Mr D. Rhydorh and Miss A. Evans

The marriage took place on Saturday, May 5, at the Parish Church of St Peter's, Hersham, of David, elder son of Mr and Mrs William Rhydorh, of East Molesey, and Angela, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Evans, of Walton-on-Thames.

The honeymoon is being spent in Wales.

Mr N.J.R. Scarf and Lady Davina Crichton

The marriage took place on Saturday at Holy Trinity, Crom, Co Fermanagh, of Mr Nicholas Scarf, elder son of the late Mr Peter R.R. Scarf and of Mrs Frances Scarf, of Embankment Gardens, SW3, to Davina Crichton, second daughter of the Earl of Erne, of Crom Castle, Co Fermanagh, and of Mrs Anthony Gray, of South Goodwin House, St Margaret's Bay, Kent. The Rev Paul Hoey and Father David Barnes officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Alexander Fairfax, Laura Ochoa and Christine Tate. Miss Stephen Scarf was best man.

A reception was held at Crom Castle, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

OBITUARIES

CHARLES FARRELL

Charles Farrell, popular American film actor of the Twenties, has died aged 89 in Palm Springs. He was born in 1901.

THE PATRICK FEATURES OF CHARLES FARRELL
placed him among the most photogenic of movieland's early stars and his business acumen took him to the barren desert east of Los Angeles, where he built an exclusive tennis club.

He and Jane Gaynor, who died in 1984, were America's most famous film couple in the late Twenties and early Thirties, when motion pictures first found a voice; but his popularity declined when his Boston accent brought him into disfavour with the old Fox Studios' front office. Tired, he said years later, of trying to portray James Cagney with an accent more like James Mason's, he left films and with the actor Ralph Bellamy built two tennis courts on scrub land.

The Charles Farrell Racquet Club became not only the basis for his own fortune but for a Fifties television series that starred Farrell as its owner, dealing with the minor travails of family and friends.

CHARLES FARRELL
Born in Onset Bay, Massachusetts, Farrell had graduated from Boston University, intending to become a psychologist. However, on a visit to California, his classic features and athletic build helped him to a minor role in the 1923 Cecil B. de Mille epic *The Ten Commandments*. Four more years of bit parts in forgotten films went by before he was cast opposite Miss Gaynor in



triumph in such epics as the 1937 *A Star Is Born*.

In the interim he had discovered Palm Springs. Besides founding his club he bought nearby land at \$30 per acre, selling it quickly for \$500 as the desert boomed. He sold the racquet club in 1959 for a reported \$1.2 million; in the meantime he had become one of Palm Springs' most famous residents, and was also its mayor from 1947 to 1955.

By then he had also re-established himself as an actor, this time on television. His hair was now grey, as was the pencil-thin moustache that remained his insignia. Nevertheless the combination, coupled with his imperious New England stance, made him perfect for the role as Vernon Abright, father of the mysterious Gale Storm in the successful television series *My Little Marge*.

Later, in *The Charlie Farrell Show* he portrayed himself in an almost auto-biographical series. After that he returned permanently to the desert property he had purchased years before. Palm Springs was even a city, living quietly with his wife, the actress Virginia Valli, who died in 1969.

Eventually time caught up with him and he spent much time in front of a television set on which was a photo of himself and Miss Gaynor, most of the friends who helped him develop the desert having died years before. But, all in all, as he confided in a 1977 interview, "I had a hell of a career and a hell of a good life."

SIR MARK TENNANT

Sir Mark Tennant, KCMG, CB, a former senior Civil Servant, has died aged 78. He was born on December 26, 1911.

ENTERING THE CIVIL SERVICE
in 1935 after Marlborough and New College, Oxford, Mark Dalour Tennant had his early years at the Ministry of Labour disrupted by the war, in which he served with the Royal Artillery. But his qualities were recognized after the war in his appointment as head of the International Department.

For five years, he was the linchpin of the UK delegation to the International Labour Conference at Geneva. He brought to this job a quick mind, administrative and linguistic skills and an urbane diplomacy, at a time when the ILO was still an important UN agency with tricky international agendas and (because of its tripartite delegate structure of governments, employers and workers) its own internal complexities.

In 1960, Lord Monckton heading a commission to look into the problems of the Central African Federation,

selected Tennant as his Secretary-General; and the contribution Tennant made and the experience he gained in that task led in 1962 to his appointment as Secretary of the Central African Office, when Rab Butler somewhat hesitantly assumed that highly charged political responsibility.

In his memoirs, Lord Butler gave high praise to Tennant for his remarkable capacity for work and the quality of the briefing and advice which he supplied throughout the difficult negotiations leading up to the Victoria Falls Conference in the summer of 1963.

After playing the central part in resolving the problems of Central Africa at the time – the orderly dissolution of the Federation and the establishment of two new states in Malawi and Zambia – Tennant applied his talents in the less limelight areas of home administration, in the Treasury, the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works and, finally, the Department of Environment.

His wife, Clare, survives him.

CARDINAL TOMÁS Ó FLAICH

The Most Reverend Desmond Connell, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland, writes:

THE LATE CARDINAL TOMÁS Ó FLAICH
will be remembered by all who knew him as a man of great warmth. In meeting him one was sure that there were no complications to be overcome: his friendliness had a direct simplicity that made personal exchange easy and sincere. Perhaps at first one might find the South Armagh accent somewhat unconventional, but one soon realized the significance of its unaffected authenticity: he was a man without sham or pretension, and entirely at home with his origins.

My personal memories of Cardinal Ó Flaich take me back over 40 years to the time when we lived as students together at the Irish College in Louvain. Together we visited some of the great Irish monastic sites in Switzerland, Austria and Germany. On the day of my consecration as Archbishop of Dublin I expressed the following hope: "Ever since we set out together, so long ago, to retrace the footsteps of the Irish saints on the Continent of Europe, we have been good friends. May we travel together now, in the footsteps of the saints who stayed at home, for the good of the flock committed to our care." It is my great sadness today that I must continue on my path without the support and understanding of so good a friend.

Increasing ill-health kept him to well-beaten paths in Cardiff where he enlivened those favourite pub in which regulars and barmaids would occasionally be startled to hear him rap out love poetry and satirical verse between rounds of drinks.

He leaves a widow, Glenys, two daughters and a son.

Forthcoming marriages

SIGNOR R.M.A. AMMUNAZI AND MISS U.A. NEWTON
The engagement is announced between Ruggero, son of Signor and Signora Francesco Ammuzi of Naples, and Ursula Ann, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Newton, of Mayfield, Sussex.

MR M.G. ATKINSON AND MISS S.E. KLEMARD
The engagement is announced between Mark George, only son of Mr J.E.M. Atkinson and the late Mrs Atkinson, of 56 Claremont, Alton, Hampshire, and Sarah Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A.L. Klemard, of Capeldei, Kilfinching, County Down.

MR J.M. CONSBY AND DR C.H.C. PEARMAN
The engagement is announced between Joseph Michael, son of Mr and Mrs T.M. Conroy, of Ellesmere Port, South Wirral, and Clare Helen Garençires, daughter of Mr and Mrs C.H.C. Pearson, of King's Somborne, Hampshire.

MR B.R. CURRY AND MISS T.J.A. BYLISS
The engagement is announced between Geoffrey, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.C. Curry, of Co Down, N Ireland, and Tracy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.D. Bylliss, of Mount Mangani, New Zealand.

MR N.P. EVELYN AND MRS S.J. WEAFL
The engagement is announced and the marriage will shortly take place between Mr Nicholas Evelyn and Mrs Sarah Woolf.

MR P.A. GOODWIN AND MISS L.M. PRENTIS
The engagement is announced between Paul Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs B.T. Goodwin, of Dorridge, Shropshire, and Lydia Mary, only daughter of Commander C.D. Prentis, DSC, RN, and Mrs Prentis, of Wallingford, Oxfordshire.

MR G.K. POWELL AND MISS S. DALGLISH
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mrs E.A. Sabry, of London, and Sharon, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Daligh, of Kilbarian, Scotland.

MR D.R.J. TYLER AND MISS P.M. MAXWELL
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs C.J.A. Tyler, of London, and Patricia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W.M. Maxwell, of Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

NATURE NOTES
The first fledgling starlings are out of the nest, begging from their parents on the ground and chasing them when they fly. Mallard ducklings follow their mother on the water; if one strays, it speeds back to its family like a water-boomerang at the first sign of danger.

Mid-May is usually the time when the trees are in their freshest and fullest green, but this year, after the early spring, many leaves are already growing darker. Since last week, many hawthorn and horse-chestnut have acquired a more rusty look as their white flowers have turned brown and started falling. Raged robin is out with its tattered-looking pink flowers; it often grows near comfrey, whose white flowers hang their heads.

DJEM

SCIENCE REPORT

Biologists puzzled by transsexual mice

AMERICAN researchers have produced adult female mice lacking ovaries, by giving them a human gene for "maleness". In last week's issue of *Nature* (vol 345, pp 167-170), Richard Behringer, from the University of Pennsylvania, and colleagues describe these curiosities, which may give biologists a better understanding of how a developing embryo grows up to be male or female.

The sex of a mouse depends

both males and females develop rudimentary sex organs (which become either the testes or ovaries) and two sets of potential reproductive tracts. One, the Wolffian duct, can form the rest of the male sexual apparatus. The Müllerian duct, on the other hand, can give rise to most of the female reproductive structures.

Not surprisingly, most of the male mice developed as "normal" males.

But

the lack of ovaries in the female mice was unexpected. Ovaries do not develop from the Müllerian duct, so their absence shows that MIS must have a greater role in sexual development than was originally thought. The strange effects of an "overdose" of MIS in males also shows that its role is not a simple one.

Professor Anne McLaren,

Peter Tallack

demolishes the Müllerian duct. Without the "maleness" genes, the opposite process occurs.



The class of '72: Jane Bidder (second from right, centre row) during her North London Collegiate days and (front) catching up with former classmates at their recent reunion



Bound by the old school ties

There was Monica scarcely changed by producing two children and graduating from teaching maths to running her own maternity hire business. There was Ramune, stylish as ever, having just launched a top-selling woman's weekly. And, over there, were the sophisticated set, a few years older and with noticeably more crows' feet around the eyes. One of them hawking the latest fashion accessory: a baby. Husbands were thin on the ground, the few bemused victims clutched by their wives, handbag fashion.

Stories abounded about the absentees: one classmate (now a gynaecologist) had delivered another's baby, a second had married a former classmate's boyfriend, a third had just been made a director of Body Shop.

Why do people go to school reunions, and why are they such a boorish business? Benenden and Wycombe Abbey are only two girls' schools which report a stepping up of the old-girl get-togethers.

For Deborah Chapman (Benenden 1955-59), nostalgia and fun raising are only part of the story. "I think people go back to reassure themselves that they look better than their contemporaries — fewer wrinkles and so on. When you reach a certain age, with children leaving the nest, you feel the need to go backwards."

Mrs Chapman — who organized the school's reunion in March this year — gains wistful amusement from re-establishing contact. "I

can't get over the number of rather dreary girls who've married terribly attractive men. Perhaps the men don't want to be eclipsed, so they purposely choose dull partners. Similarly, I'm also amazed by some very pretty women who haven't got married as fast as I would have expected them to. And I've noticed, too, that many plainish girls have blossomed in the intervening years."

Her sister, Victoria, says that the first thing she looks for is what people are wearing. Regulation attire seems to be smart cocktail, and plenty of effort is made.

Simple curiosity needles many a former pupil into seeking out classmates, according to the Association of Representatives of Old Pupils' Societies (Arops). "You don't see this with girls who have just left because they're quite rightly keen to go out into the world," says the chairman, Margaret Carter-Pegg. "But when they reach their late twenties, there is an element of wanting to go back to their roots, both to reassure themselves and to see if people have changed."

Also comes the slow realization that life does not necessarily consist of tailor-made pools of potential friends. "My closest friends today are those I knew in the classroom because we were thrown together for such a long time," Mrs Chapman says.

Dr Aris Ambelas, a consultant psychiatrist for Leicester Health Authority, points out: "One never makes the same attachments after school. One tends to make friends

for professional reasons, rather than because of a general emotional attraction as one did in the classroom, where there was a far wider selection of personalities to choose from. And there is something secure, when you reach a certain age, about finding people from your past." His own experience of school reunions has persuaded him that people do change, even if only in terms of their attractiveness to the opposite sex.

This itch to catch up with the past struck Pam Hamilton-Dick, advertising manager for *The Times* classified section. "I put a personal ad in for myself to trace old school friends, mainly because I am in my thirties. I knew it would be lovely to find out what happened to people of my age group. Perhaps it's because everyone is moving so fast in the Nineties, it would be nice to find something more stable." She received five letters from old friends, and sold the idea of a School Ties column in the paper as a regular Monday event: "So far, it has been

very successful. One woman rang up in the second week to say she had been reunited with classmates from the Thirties whom she assumed were dead."

Dr Ambelas believes those who do turn up to reunions are "more likely to be those who succeeded and lived up to school expectations". Sometimes, old girls turn up to prove the point in reverse. One successful woman lawyer recently returned to her old school to prove she had not been as unpromising as the staff had predicted.

Do people become more interesting as they get older? And if you lost touch with them, was it because they were simply forgettable people? "The conversation can dry up, leaving you to ask the inevitable question 'how many children do you have?'" says Victoria Chapman. "That leads to a lengthy spiel about Jeremy being at Cambridge and Lavinia setting up her own interior design business. Old girls tend to be frighteningly competitive about their own children. Perhaps this is why people are sometimes scared to go back."

The fear of returning appears to be a female trait, since male reunions, according to Arops, are generally more popular. "I'm not sure why," says Ms Carter-Pegg. "Perhaps it's because men do not seem to mind as much as women how much the events cost."

The cost can vary from £5 for a cocktail evening to a three-figure

sum for a trip abroad. Wycombe Abbey old girls have organized trips to Istanbul, Florence, Venice and Vienna during the last four years, and today a party of 30 leaves for Madrid. These outings are attended mostly by the over-forties and, since only a half dozen or so husbands go along, widows and single travellers need not feel left out.

Isis (Independent Schools Information Service) points out that more schools are organizing reunions now purely to raise money from old boys (again, more generous than old girls) to provide new design and technology centres.

Nor are reunions confined to public schools. The National Association of School Teachers believes that while some modern comprehensives are phasing out the idea, it is still alive and well in former grammar schools. Christine Franklin (Highbury Hill High School 1949-54) is organizing its 61st reunion. "We get old girls as young as 20 and as old as 65-plus. Many of us were working-class pupils, but our school gave us something. I don't know what it was, but it is a certain thing that is always there."

Perhaps the final word should go to another old girl who did not want to be named. "I think we all go away from these reunions with a feeling of inadequacy if we have not done as well as the others. Then a couple of years later these feelings fade and the nostalgia takes over. So when the next reunion invitation arrives, the school hymn starts humming in our heads and we accept."

The hard man in soft focus

Is Glasgow the last home of the unreconstructed man — or has the City of Culture swept him away?

Danny Scouler, the hero of William McIlvanney's novel *The Big Man*, takes up a career as a bare-knuckle boxer as the answer to his unemployment and marital disharmony.

He is a hard man — the sort who gave Glasgow its reputation for cut-throat razors at every corner and running gang fights in Sauchiehall Street. The kind who conjures up images of drunks and the horse cry "see you, Jimmy".

The film adaptation of Mr McIlvanney's book, soon to be released, comes at an unfortunate time. This is, after all, the year when Glasgow is designated European City of Culture. Cultured cities don't have hard men, do they?

Whether we believe that or not, those of us who care deeply about Glasgow have been trying to convince the world that it is not only the buildings which have had their gritty surfaces cleaned during the last decade. Our men, too, we plead, have been cleansed of all that rough stuff.

Then along comes Bill, an ordinary guy — and we are back to square one. All tough stuff and Glasgow kisses.

But please remember that Bill — William — writes fiction. The real 1990 Glasgow man wheels prams, presides over a barbecue and drinks designer lager. Or he wears a flamboyant fedora, drinks designer whisky and is almost convinced that a woman's place, in the 21st century, could be in the boardroom. Even our football hooligans are lambs compared with nasty boys from England.

Billy Connolly (who appears in *The Big Man* as Frankie, the hard man with a heart of gold) has complained that Glasgow is over-Yuppiefied and that with the advent of the Merchant City we have seen the exit of the real character of the place. But that famous son of Glasgow, a former shipyard worker, is a

non-drinking vegetarian who cuddles his children in public.

Still, while the Gorbals has long gone and the smash of a pint glass breaking on an oak bar is becoming as rare as the hammer's clang on the Clyde, some of the men of west Scotland have a long way to go. As long as their manmades can see them doing no wrong and will wait upon them until the day they marry, they will believe that the only place for a woman is in the home.

But at least they are honest. What you see is what you get, says a friend who lived for years in London and was totally disillusioned by southern Englishmen claiming to be happy chancers and dishwashers when in fact they were as unreconstructed as Mr McIlvanney's Big Man.

There never were all that many hard men, but they could always cause a lot of harm. They have damaged a fine city's reputation in the past. Today, the damage is perhaps more insidious, because the Glasgow hard man of 1990 has gone underground. Violence on the streets may be minimal, but domestic violence is rife. A survey carried out by the *Evening Times*, the city's evening newspaper, in conjunction with the Glasgow Women's Support Project, showed that women are scared in their own homes and nearly half of the respondents had been threatened, bullied or assaulted by the man with whom they lived.

The respondents to such surveys are self-selective, which gives us 700 women in a population of 700,000 being the victims of sadistic men. Seven hundred too many, but it puts it in perspective — just as outsiders should put the hard-man image of Mr McIlvanney's *The Big Man* into perspective when considering a visit to 1990's City of Culture.

Marian Pallister

• The author is women's editor of the *Evening Times* in Glasgow and feature writer of the year in the UK Press Gazette British Regional Press Awards.

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EDUCATION

History takes a dramatic turn

What happens when, in the name of teaching history, a 'Victorian' troupe meets 50 television-hardened teenagers? Douglas Broom reports

Young Charles Knightley was being rather silly last week. In a sailor suit and plus-fours, the eligible Victorian bachelor romped in front of a group of teenagers singing nursery rhymes.

Apart from celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria, Mr Knightley, actor Ben Ross, was also helping the third form at Hodgson High School at Poulton-le-Fylde, near Blackpool, to prepare for a GCSE in history.

The Young National Trust Theatre Company (YNTT), in which Mr Ross, is also the musical director, was at Rufford Old Hall near Wigan, Lancashire, for the start of its 1990 season.

Through the summer the company will tour National Trust properties with *Two Nations*, a play about life in Victorian Britain in which pupils play supporting roles and ultimately determine the outcome of the drama.

Their blend of history and theatre is almost supernatural in its effect. The arrival in a room of a group of people, who looked for all the world as if they might have lived there 100 years ago, produced a palpable and immediate response from 50 television-hardened teenagers.

Liz Rothschild, the artistic director of the YNTT, said: "It is like a dream that many of us have had of being able to meet and talk to people from the past. What we say and what we wear are accurate and true to the period we are working in."

After the initial shock had subsided, the pupils at last week's performance spent the afternoon making punch in the housekeeper's parlour, singing rousing songs with "Mr Knightley" and composing a petition with a Victorian trade unionist.

Throughout, the actors remained resolutely in character, forcing the students to adapt their language and their attitudes to those of the 19th century.

Simon Hutchens, who plays Thomas Ash, a factory worker and trade unionist, ran into the sort of problem that arises when you force a late-20th century teenager to deal with a Victorian on his own terms.

In a genuine attempt to enter into the spirit of the day, one teenage boy proudly announced

he, too, was a factory hand. "At what factory do you work?" the Victorian workman asked. "Volvo," came the reply.

In the embarrassed silence, Ash said: "I do not believe that I have ever heard anyone speak of such a place."

Language aside, the performance demands that pupils re-examine many of their modern assumptions. Part of the plot concerns a plan to dig a quarry on the estate.

"They really are very green in their outlook," said Rachel Hayward, who plays Lady Rutherford, a philanthropist who tries to mediate between the interests of capital and the working men.

"One of them told me that digging the quarry would damage the ozone layer. I had to ask very carefully what that was."

Jane Alistair, who portrays Violet Huel, a working girl, said: "They were also quite shocked when they realized that working people in the 19th century would have welcomed a development like that which would have given them work. It is amazing how quickly they adjust their outlook to the 19th century and attempt to understand how people thought and felt then."

Miss Rothschild, who wrote *Two Nations*, believes pupils find it easier to study history on paper after their brush with "real" people of the period.

Preparation is equally important and the YNTT provides a 44-page teachers' guide filled with contemporary accounts of life in 1887.

"They come knowing at least something about the period," said Miss Rothschild. "This time a lot of them seem to have made their own Jubilee medals, which is very good."

Susan Willoughby, the head of history at Hodgson High, said: "The students have all made their own costumes and I think they look very good." A top hat rose among the mob-caps as she spoke. A bowler was to be seen among the shawls. Disbelief now firmly suspended, everyone entered into the business of resolving the conflicts inherent in the life of a great house in Victorian times.

One of the strangest elements of

the day was the way in which all those concerned shied away from naming the concept at the heart of what they were doing.

Empathy has had a pretty bad press in the past three years, largely because of the acrimonious row that broke out between a group of history teachers at Lewes in Sussex and an examination board on the eve of the first GCSE exams in 1988.

The dispute centred on sample papers issued by the Southern Examining Group to, among others, the history department at Lewes Priory School, a comprehensive in the county town of East Sussex.

The teachers accused the board of asking questions that allowed pupils to fantasize about the past by placing themselves in the shoes of people from history. The board replied that only those pupils who based their replies firmly on

historical evidence would score any marks. This rather narrow dispute has led to a fear of using the word to describe a process which is plainly important, not only for the study of historical fact but as a training for life.

Learning to see the other person's point of view, even if one profoundly disagreed with that view, is an essential preparation for life in a democratic society.

"I still do not like to call it empathy, although that is what it is — a quite literal sense of the word," says Mrs Willoughby.

"This performance brings history alive in a very direct way and it also raises historical issues in a form to which the pupils can relate. Arguments about whether profits or people should come first take on real meaning and they are forced to examine both sides of the question."

In the national debate about

empathy, it was left to the National Curriculum History Working Group, under the chairmanship of Commander Michael Saunders Watson to speak with the voice of common sense.

The group, in its interim report, refused to take sides in a debate which it declared was "to some extent contrived" and which rested "on thin evidence or even misapprehension".

The YNTT is thriving by turning an abstract concept such as empathy into a real meeting between past and present. Having National Trust houses to use as a backdrop helps, but the authenticity of its performance is at the heart of its success.

• The YNTT, sponsored by Barclays Bank, plans to become a permanent company taking workshops to schools in the winter and continuing with its plays at National Trust houses in the summer.

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EDUCATIONAL

Continued on page 33

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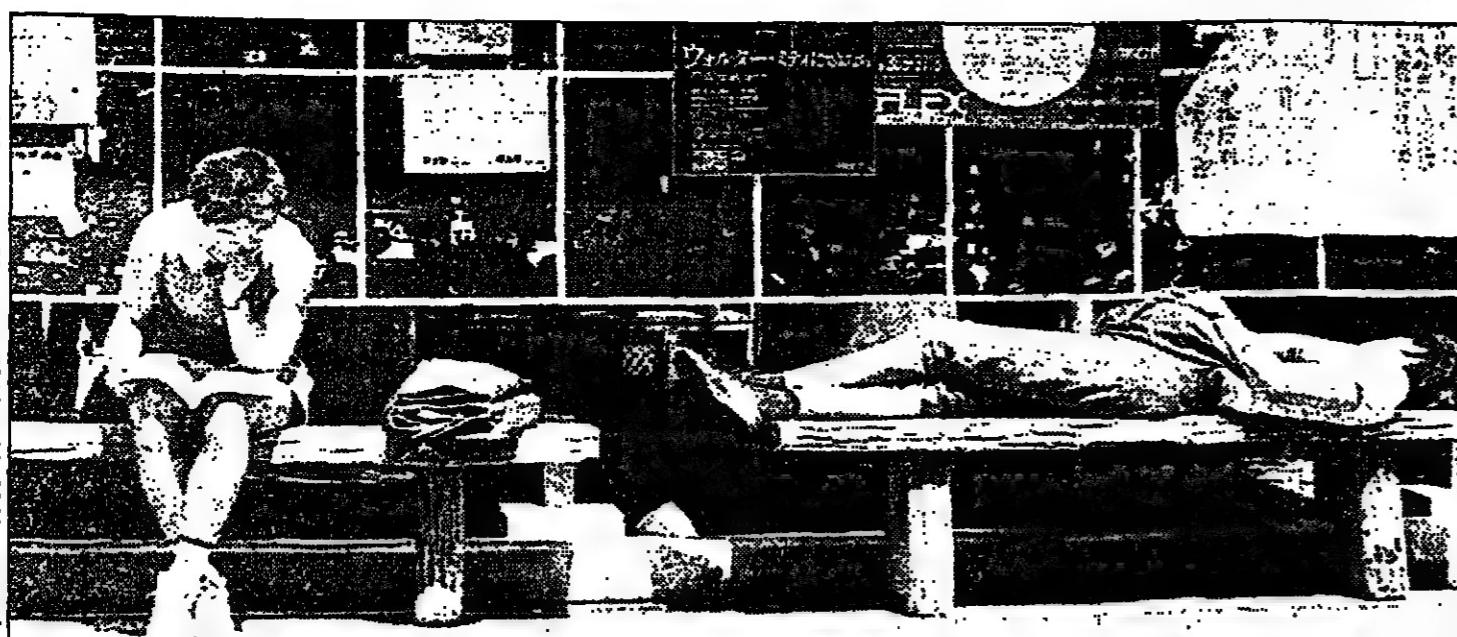
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EDUCATION



Leisure lands: the reputation of Japanese graduates is determined by the university's status, rather than the quality of their work

Study in Japan is easy — getting a university place is hard work, John Greenlees writes

A pleasant waste of four years is how Hiroshi Okada, aged 24, describes his recently completed higher education at one of Japan's prestige universities. In a nation devoted to diligence, Japan's 460 or so universities have a reputation as places where students enjoy a vacation between the hard grind of school and work.

Lectures are often skipped and many students spend their time relaxing, playing sports or working at part-time jobs — making them among the richest young people in the world.

Graduation is virtually a formality. A graduate's reputation is determined by the status of the university he or she has attended rather than the quality of the work done there. "The difficult part of Japanese higher education," says Taeko Nakane, a student, "is getting into a good university."

Such are the rewards for winning a place at a top university that some students take several years to prepare for university entrance exams at full-time cramming courses. Once they have entered their targeted universities, students can relax.

The emphasis on general education and unpopular subjects in most curricula discourages many students from attending lectures.

"We had enough English Literature at high school," says Mr Okada, who believes that compulsory general education subjects should be abandoned.

Teaching methods also lower attendance at lectures and tutorials. "Discussion and student-involvement are minimal," says Bruce McKintyre, an American student who has been studying in Japan for the past year. "Many

A degree in the soft life

lecturers are so uninspiring there is little incentive to attend classes."

Low pay for academic staff deters talented students from considering an academic career. To supplement their income, many lecturers take second jobs at cramming schools. Japanese lecturers, critics often say, are not entirely dedicated to their university commitments.

The Japanese education system, with its emphasis on traditional education, encourages students to agree with their done rather than question what they are saying. Role learning and the lack of opportunities to express ideas

have produced a poor research environment and a disappointing contribution to international science. Poor facilities, particularly in the many private institutions that most students attend, also hinder good research work.

To counter international criticism that Japan has benefited from research carried out in other countries, yet has made no reciprocal contribution, the Japanese government has been repeatedly urged to commit more funds to higher education. Reformers also want to dismantle the rigid seniority system within universities, which prevents talented young researchers from reaching posts of influence while at their intellectual peak.

A growing number of Japanese companies is also looking for higher research standards and a supply of graduates able to produce the new ideas and inventions needed to maintain the country's industrial supremacy in the 21st century. Other companies, however, remain satisfied with the present supply of graduates who, they say, are easily moulded into obedient company workers.

Nevertheless, reform has been discussed by the College Education Subcommittee of the University Council, which was convened to suggest ways of improving Japan's higher-education system.

One of the council's conclusions is that colleges and universities should have greater flexibility to devise their own curricula and credit systems. At present, universities are required to offer a standardized curriculum that provides a minimum of 36 credits for liberal arts subjects, eight for a foreign language, four for physical education and the remaining 76 for specialized courses.

The committee also recommends the introduction of a framework for enabling universities to assess their own teaching and research standards and that the results of these should be made available for public scrutiny.

Other reform groups have advocated tougher graduation standards. But there is reluctance in universities to alter radically a system of higher education that has helped directly, or indirectly, Japan's economic miracle.

• The author has recently returned from Japan, where he worked as a writer and photographer.

A YEN TO TEACH IN THE EAST

YOUNG British graduates wanting to teach in Japan can apply to the Japanese Embassy in London to take part in the Japanese exchange and teaching programme which, since 1978, has arranged for 1,207 Britons to teach in Japanese schools and colleges.

The programme was extended in 1983 to include graduates from the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Ireland, and last year, included France and West Germany. In August last year, 270 British

graduates, selected by the Japanese Embassy in London, took up posts in schools throughout Japan. Others extended previous contracts or moved to other schools, bringing the total number of graduates to 370.

All universities and polytechnics and colleges can apply to the programme in mid-October and closing date is mid-January the following year. Applications for this year topped 1,000, from which 263 were selected to leave for Japan in July.

• The author has recently returned from Japan, where he worked as a writer and photographer.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

FACULTY OF EDUCATIONAL AND LEISURE STUDIES

REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 1990

LECTURERS/SENIOR LECTURERS

Food and Beverage Production and Service Management
Accommodation and Front Office Management
Principles of Management

We are looking for three specialists qualified to degree or equivalent professional level to teach on higher diploma, degree, post-graduate and professional qualification courses in Hotel, Catering and Institutional Management and be actively involved in consultancy and research activities. You should have a wide knowledge of the industry and preferably some teaching experience.

For further details contact Tony Parsons on 0532 832600 ext. 3476.

Recreation Leadership

We are seeking an additional member of the BTEC Leisure Studies team to strengthen our work in Recreation Leadership. You should have a recognised qualification in Leisure/Recreation Studies with experience in the field in community recreation, sports leadership or activity development, and/or experience in delivering BTEC courses.

Commitment to BTEC rationale and teaching methods is essential. For further details contact Professor Margaret Talbot on 0532 832600 ext. 3558, or Jeff Abrams (Course Leader) ext. 3566, or Dr. Sheila Scratton (M.A. Course Leader) ext. 3573.

Leisure Studies

To teach sociological/social psychological aspects of Leisure Studies, across the BA (Hons) Leisure Studies Degree and the new M.A. in Human Potential. You should have a good honours degree and higher degree in Leisure Studies or relevant discipline with an interest in curriculum development and teaching at honours and higher degree levels and in research supervision. We are particularly interested in candidates with a critical social/political perspective on leisure and health, but those with other specialisms (e.g. cultural policy, consumer development, organisation theory, therapeutic intervention) are also welcome. For further details contact Professor Margaret Talbot on 0532 832600 ext. 3558, Jim Butterfield (B.A. Course Leader) ext. 3566, or Dr. Sheila Scratton (M.A. Course Leader) ext. 3573.

Physical Education
An experienced and well qualified physical educationist, you will lead the Primary Physical Education elements of the B.Ed degree and P.G.C.E. courses. Working closely with colleagues in the Faculty of Physical Education, Professional and Teaching Studies, you will be up-to-date knowledge of the requirements of the National Curriculum. This is an exciting opportunity to work in an institution which has around 300 student teachers across the 5-16 age range choosing physical education as their subject study, as well as all primary education students following curriculum studies courses in physical education. The ability to offer help in teaching curriculum development and evaluation, appraisal, gymnastics or swimming would be advantageous. For further details contact Professor Margaret Talbot on 0532 832600 ext. 3558, or Mervyn Beck (Principal Lecturer in Physical Education Area), ext. 3581.

Professional Studies: Early Childhood Education
To work with a team of tutors on the delivery and further development of a portfolio of activities which include: "Initial teacher education route: 4 year B.Ed; 2 year B.Ed. (Early Years); PGCE; Primary, Early Years"; PGCE; Articled Teacher (Early Years). "Early Childhood courses within the WIVAS framework to Honours level. "A new modular and school based Post-graduate Diploma and Linked Master of Education programme in Early Childhood. "A wide range of school and EA-based consultancy and short-course activities.

You should have teaching experience in either 3-5 or 5-8 school or a senior level and be able to demonstrate an expertise in the delivery of Early Childhood Education programmes. It is essential that you have been involved in curriculum development work.

For further details contact Wendy Dewhurst on 0532 832600 ext. 3611.

Professional Studies: Secondary Education

To work with a team of tutors in the secondary area with students intending to become secondary teachers of Primary Education, Early Years and Secondary Education (Mathematics, Science, English, History, Modern Languages, etc.). Experience in these areas would be useful but is not essential. The post will involve professional studies and the preparation and supervision of teaching practice on all relevant courses along with an In-Service role, including "BEd (Hons) Secondary", "PGCE Secondary", "In-Service Courses".

For further details contact Alan Osborne on 0532 832600 ext. 3630 or Eddie Miller on ext. 3642.

Design and Technology: Home Economics

To work with a team of seven full time Design and Technology lecturers and three specialist technicians to respond to the requirements of the National Curriculum. Our Design and Technology Centre is now the largest provider of Design and Technology Education in the country. Our new 4 years Honours degree programme in Design and Technology is the first of its kind in the country. The course follows an integrated route of CDT and HE and is national first. We are seeking an additional member of our team to do an HE role. From present, you will work with the Design and Technology Coordinators for the new degrees and the Head of Centre to act as a focus for all Home Economics based activity.

For further details contact Mike Hopkins on 0532 832600 ext. 3568.

Associate Lecturer (0.5) Painting

Associate Lecturer (0.5) Painting/Priantching Ref AL/PP
A suitably qualified practicing artist with relevant teaching experience, you will join the staff team responsible for teaching the BA (Hons) Fine Art programme. There are two half-time appointments, one in painting and one in painting/priantching. For further details contact Ian Heywood on 0532 832600 ext. 3372.

B.A. (Hons) Consumer Services Management

Public Sector Services Ref L/PSS
A good graduate in Social Policy and Administration, you will preferably have a research background. Practical experience in Public Sector Services, community work and teaching of degree level is also desirable. For further details contact Chris Scargill on 0532 832600 ext. 3815.

Salary: Lecturer: Up to £16,521
Senior Lecturer: Up to £20,511

To apply for any of these posts, please submit your CV, with names of two referees and current salary details to the Faculty Office, Educational and Leisure Studies, Leeds Polytechnic, Beckett Park, Leeds LS6 3QS or Fax (0532) 833163.

Closing date: 18th May, 1990. Interviews will be held from Wednesday 23rd May, 1990.

Leeds Polytechnic is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL OXFORD

H.M.C., 500 boys aged 11-18, Sixth Form 150

HEAD OF COMPUTING

Required for September 1990 if possible, otherwise January 1991, in this academically-selective mainly-day school. Eronet network of Archimedes machines. Well established courses. Further details from The Master, Magdalen College School, Oxford, OX4 1DZ (tel: (0865) 242191)

PREP & PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DEVONSHIRE HOUSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL, Hampstead.
For girls and boys from 3-13.
For further information and interviews please contact the School Secretary at 69 Fitzjohns Avenue, London NW3 6PB. Tel: 071-435 1916



University of London VANDERWELL CHAIR OF PHARMACOLOGY

At the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Applications are invited for the Vanderwell Chair of Pharmacology at the MRC Institute of the Medical Sciences, University of London, 18 Newark Street, London EC1M 4LJ. Closing date 31st March 1990.

Salary will be within the professional range (minimum £24,700 per annum).

Applications (D.O.C.) should include a curriculum vitae and a list of published work should be sent to: Dr Steve J. FROST, Head of the Department of Pharmacology, Royal College of Surgeons of England, 18 Newark Street, London EC1M 4LJ. Closing date 31st March 1990.

Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, Royal College of Surgeons of England, 18 Newark Street, London EC1M 4LJ. Tel: 0171-837 3643. Ref No 1337.

Interested parties are invited to contact the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor J.M. Beazley (tel: 0151-799 2603).

Quoting date for applications: 11 June 1990.

Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, Royal College of Surgeons of England, 18 Newark Street, London EC1M 4LJ. Tel: 0171-837 3643. Ref No 1337.

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PREVIEW

TODAY Art & Auctions

● TUESDAY Theatre & Cabaret ● WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz & World Music ● THURSDAY Opera, Dance & Books ● FRIDAY Classical Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

ART EXHIBITIONS

David Lee

NEW IN LONDON

ENGLISH CASTLES AND LANDSCAPES: Paintings by Alfonso Toft (1871-1954) in which the peculiar treatment of light belies the traditionalism of the subject matter. Leighton House, 12 Holland Park Road, W1 (071-602 3318). Mon-Fri, 11am-6pm, Sat, 11am-5pm, free, until June 2 (closed May 28). From today.

SARDINE TIN LABELS FROM NORWAY: Norwegians apparently collect these cigarette cards, the "Sikker" brand being especially prized. Design Museum, Butter's Wharf, Shad Thames, SE1 (071-403 6933). Tues-Sun, 11.30am-6.30pm, £2 (£1), until June 17. From Tues.

SCULPTURE 1828-1950: A good selection of Old Masters, Zadkine, Chadwick and Armitage plus younger serious figurative sculptors such as Sami Tombs and Lee Grandjean. Barker's Antiques Gallery, 23a Bruton Street, W1 (071-403 7339). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm, free, until June 2 (closed May 28). From today.

RIVER: Works by eight artists as stylistically diverse as Richard Long, Barbara Hepworth and Veronica Ryan, offering different responses to place. Goldsmiths' Hall, Lewisham Way, SE14 (081-822 7171). Mon-Fri, 12pm-7pm, Sat, 11am-3pm, free, until June 16 (closed May 28). From Wed.

ART BRUT: A collection of work by so-called "primitive" artists — those without formal training — including pieces by celebrated outsiders Scottie Wilson and Albert Louden. Care Gallery, Southwark Park, SE16 (071-223 2170). Wed-Sun, 10am-5pm, free, until June 10. From Wed.

ADRIAN HEMMING: Expressionistic, freely handled paintings, sparsely figurative, with dark depths and a religious solemnity about them. Art Space Gallery, 84 St Peter's Street, N1 (071-339 7002). Tues-Sat, 2-7pm, free, until June 13. From Thurs.

PHILLIP KING: Large abstract sculptures completed since this artist's retrospective at the Hayward Gallery in 1983.

MARY ROWAN GALLERY: 31a Bruton Place, W1 (071-499 3011). Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, free, until June 21 (closed May 28). From Fri.

BRIAN ENO: Video sculptures incorporating sound and light by the former keyboards player of Roxy Music.

- Todt Soho, 6 Merton Street, W1 (071-287 8195). Tues-Fri, 12.30pm, free, until June 8. From Fri.

SURFACE LIGHT: Holograms and light projections by Andrew Pepper. Watermans Arts Centre, 40 High Street, Brentford (081-588 1716). Mon-Fri, 11.30am-9pm, Sat-Sun, 11am-9.30pm, free, until June 17 (open May 28). From Fri.

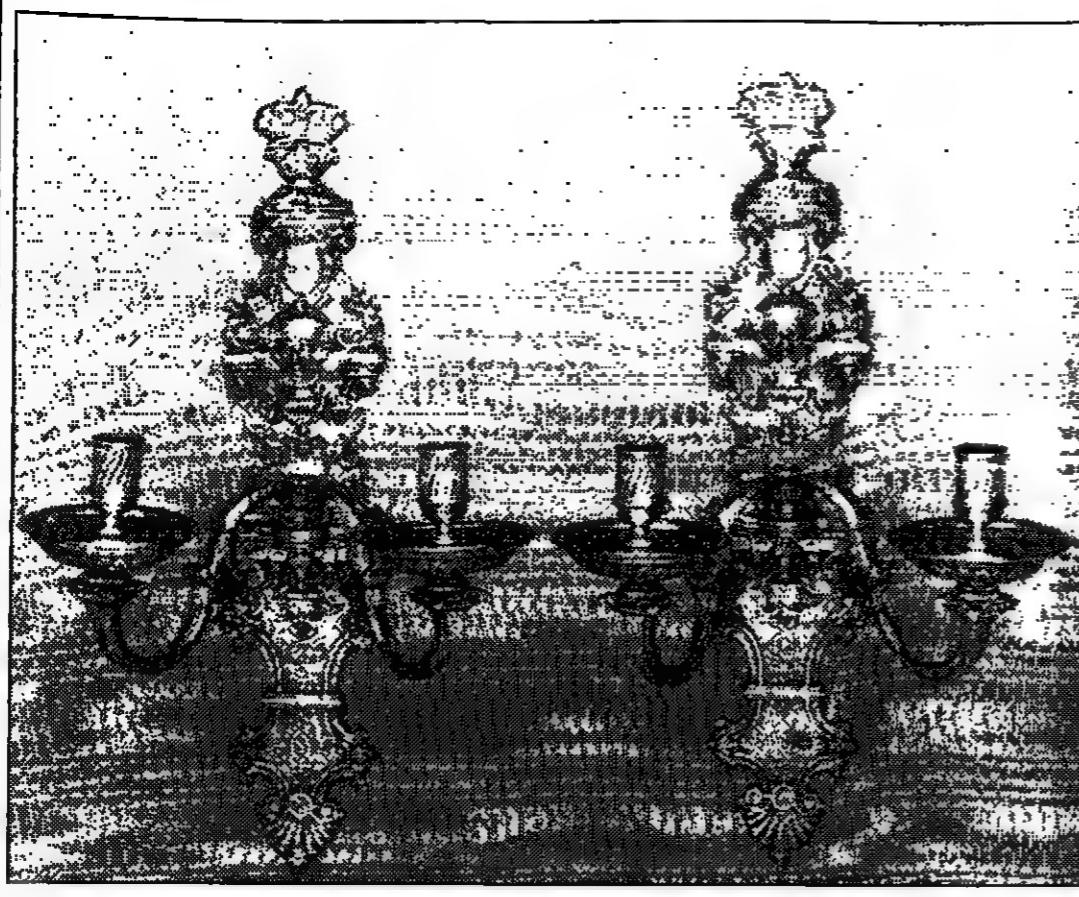
CONTINUING

FAKE? THE ART OF DECEPTION: Six hundred fakes and originals, from all periods including Van Meegeren's infamous "Vermeers". British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-582 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-5pm, £3 (conc), until September 2 (open May 28).

A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY: Paintings narrating private mythologies and yearnings, and frequently dealing with seafarers, harbours and odyseys, by Patrick Hayman (1915-1988). Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3 (071-435 2643). Mon-Fri, 10.30am-5.30pm, Sat-Sun, 1-5pm, free, until June 17 (closed May 28).

ALBERT IRWIN: Decorative abstract paintings 1960-89.

Reborn from the ashes



The pair of silver-gilt wall sconces above has a special place in an impressive exhibition devoted to Paul de Lamerie (1688-1755), the best-known silversmith of his day. They are considered the most important examples of his early career. Once owned by Lady Trent in Jersey, they were left behind when the family escaped the German occupation of the Channel Islands. The cook came to the rescue. He buried them at the bottom of the garden, under boiler ash. After the war, they were dug up again and re-hung. Lady Trent returned home, as Susan Haie, exhibition organizer, puts it. The sconces date from 1713-16, the period immediately after he began independent work, and have been loaned by the present owners, Los Angeles County Museum. There are 200 exhibits on show at the newly refurbished Goldsmiths' Hall, in the City of London. De Lamerie's early work was plain and simple in the Queen Anne style, but the flowing and extravagant forms of European Rococo began to dominate by the mid-1730s. Towards the

end of his life, however, he returned to the simpler style that seemed to anticipate the more geometric shapes of neo-classicism. The exhibition is a sumptuous affair with gold, silver and silver-gilt objects from all over the world. It promises to be one of the outstanding events of the fine art year, with loans from the Queen, the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad, the Met in New York and the Getty in California. There is even a chandelier from the Kremlin, supplied by de Lamerie for the Tsarina in 1734. It was spotted by the exhibition organizer during a visit. "The Russians insisted it was by a French maker but we said it was not and eventually we found it was hallmarked by de Lamerie. To their great credit, they changed the name card there and then." *Paul de Lamerie: At the Sign of the Golden Ball*, Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, London EC2 (071-506 7010). Sponsored by Grand Metropolitan. From Wednesday until June 22. Monday to Saturday, 10.30am-5pm, closed Sundays and May 28. Admission £3, concessions £1.50. *John Silcock*

NEIL JEFFRIES: Narrative sculptures contrived from bent and riveted metal that on first glance look crudely toy-like, but whose "modeling" defies the intractability of the material.

Flowers Ease: 199 Richmond Road, E8 (081-985 3333). Tues-Sun, 10am-6pm, free, until May 27.

OUTSIDE LONDON

TRAILBLAZERS: Humorous caricatures of figures such as scoutmasters by Graham Bessell, sculpture answer to Donald McGill.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park: West Bretton, near Wakefield (0824 630579). Daily, 10am-5pm, free, until September 2 (open May 28). From today.

THE PROMISED LAND: Bob Jardine's wry photographs of Milton Keynes, which confirm a cynical outsider's view of life in a new town.

Exhibition Gallery: 555 Silbury Boardwalk, Milton Keynes (0908 605536). Mon-Wed, 9.30am-6pm, Thurs-Fri, 9.30am-8pm, Sat, 10am-8pm, free, until September 2 (open May 28). From today.

TOWN AND COUNTRY: Seventy drawings by Gainsborough and Rowlandson; a case of the bucolic rubbing cheeks with the alcoholic?

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery: Chamberlain Square (021 235 2834). Daily, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-5pm, free, until June 24 (open May 28). From today.

NOTABLE NETSUKE: A man who bought a netsuke of a wild boar with her young for £900 at a country auction is selling it for an estimated £20,000-£40,000. One of only two of this subject known by Masanaga, the Kyoto master. Sale coincides with a netsuke collector's fair at the Park Lane Hotel.

Bonhams: Montpelier Street, London SW7 (071-584 9161). Sale: today, 2pm.

AVANT-GARDE: Selection of 160 paintings representing artists from over 30 countries from the 1940s to the 1980s. Some original exhibits from the Drian, Gallery One, the Obelisk and other avant-garde centres of the 1950s and 1960s.

Bonhams: Montpelier Street, London SW7 (071-584 9161). Sale: today, 2pm.

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BUSINESS

MONDAY MAY 14 1990

SECTION 2

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-27
- FOCUS ON JAPAN 28-31
- LAW 26
- SPORT 35-42

Executive Editor
David Brewerton
CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6805 (+0.0195)

W German mark
2.7409 (-0.0365)

Exchange index
87.1 (-0.5)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1708.8 (+12.0)

FT-SE 100

2175.9 (+13.7)

USM (Datstream)

129.87 (-0.29)

Merrill Lynch in Elders buy

MERRILL Lynch has bought the New York energy futures operation of Elders IXL, the financially troubled Australian brewing group.

Elders New York operation recorded a profit last year of about \$3 million and had assets of \$200 million with a book value of \$30 million.

A spokesman for Elders in New York declined to comment on the deal, but it is understood that the business was sold at a slight premium to book value.

The sale marks part of the dismantling of the finance division of Elders, which is being broken up as part of the group's attempts to concentrate on its brewing operations.

Elders Finance in New York now has investments of only \$200 million. These include a 14% stake in North West Airlines as well as investments in such companies as Sound Warehouse, the Disney joint-venture project, and the Hercules Offshore Drilling Company.

At its peak about a year ago, Elders had assets of \$1.3 billion in the US, including \$700 million in its bond trading operations which were sold earlier this year to J McIntosh and Company.

Virgin stake for Japanese

VOYAGER Travel Holdings, Mr Richard Branson's holding company for Virgin Atlantic Airways, has received a £36 million equity and loan capital injection from Seibu Saison International, the leading Japanese hotel and retail group.

Seibu Saison, which together with Scandinavian Airline Systems (SAS) jointly owns the Intercontinental Hotels chain, is taking a 10 per cent stake in Voyager.

Mr Branson says the injection from the Japanese will help finance Virgin Atlantic's airline network, which will be further extended on Wednesday with an inaugural flight to Los Angeles.

Voyager reported a turnover of £115 million and pretax profits of £9 million in the year ended July 31.

Kingfisher chief takes salary cut

THE salary of Mr Geoffrey Mulcahy, the chief executive of Kingfisher, was cut by £44,000, from £701,000 to £657,000, for the financial year which ended on February 3.

Mr Mulcahy's remuneration is linked to performance and the 6 per cent fall resulted from a slowdown in the growth of Kingfisher's earnings per share.

Since then Mr Mulcahy, aged 48, has also taken on the role of chairman, a post for which his non-executive predecessor, Sir Kenneth Durham, was paid £87,000 last year.

Name change

The Institution of Production Engineers is changing its name to the Institution of Manufacturing Engineers. Mergers talks are also in progress with the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.325	2.175
Austria Sch	5.200	5.000
Belgium Fr	59.95	56.00
Canada \$	1.038	1.025
Denmark Kr	11.00	10.75
Finland Mark	5.65	5.45
France Fr	9.72	9.15
Germany Dm	2.885	2.825
Greece Dr	278.50	265.00
Hong Kong \$	1.72	12.10
Iceland Fr	1.078	1.000
Italy Lira	2.115	1.950
Japan Yen	3.20	3.02
Malta Liri	11.25	10.55
Portugal Esc	256.75	247.75
South Africa Rand	5.25	4.75
Spain Pes	18.50	18.50
Sweden Kr	10.53	9.93
Switzerland Fr	2.48	2.30
Turkey Lira	1.735	1.685
USA \$	2.450	17.50
Yugoslavia Dinar	24.90	21.50

Fares for small denomination bank notes as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 121.4 (March)

★ ★ ★ ★ *

BUSINESS

MONDAY MAY 14 1990

New figures confuse rates policy picture

By Graham Seargent
Financial Editor

THE Government will be faced this week with further conflicting signals about the speed and success of its policy of high interest rates in cutting demand and inflation in overheated parts of the economy.

The CBI's distributive trades survey, widely seen as an accurate short-term guide to consumer spending, shows a surprising upturn in sales for both retailers and wholesalers in April after an apparent downturn since the blip around the turn of the year.

There is good news on inflation from the building industry, but fears are rising that unemployment may rise for a prolonged period.

A bigger proportion of CBI respondents reported higher sales in April than a year ago than in any month since September. More re-

ported sales were good for the time of year than in any month since last July.

After the unexpected rise in stock of unsold goods in March, the balance of those reporting that stocks were too high fell back to its lowest for more than a year. The upturn in trade in April is likely to be reflected in the Government's figures today for retail sales.

The CBI suggests the embarrassing short-term recovery may be due to special factors, particularly because Easter, which is now a busy time for shopping expeditions, came in April in 1990, but in March last year.

The CBI puts more attention on the continuing downturn in the motor trade. This shows a balance of 60 per cent of firms reporting lower sales than a year ago, the worst since the survey started in 1983 and twice as bad as last November, the worst most recent month.

A quarterly survey from the Building Em-

ployers Confederation confirms this picture of heavy falls in spending on big items, at the same time as sales of low-price goods remain buoyant. The BEC projects a 5 per cent drop in the output of the building and contracting industry in 1990.

Inquiries for new work fell for the third consecutive quarter in the first three months of 1990, and the downturn has spread from housing related business to commercial construction work, except in the Midlands and Scotland.

Mr Peter Rainbird, BEC chairman, said: "These results suggest that, as with private householding, the downturn in contracting could be sharper and more protracted than was initially anticipated."

The best news for the Chancellor is that tender price inflation in building contracts has ground to a halt in the first quarter because

less than 40 per cent of firms are working at full capacity.

But the survey will raise fears that the economy's uneven response to high interest rates will require a prolonged squeeze that will hit employment. The BEC said the usual spring upturn in employment had not taken place.

The Employment Institute issued a warning that "underlying" employment, net of the effect of special measures, had already started to rise and that Britain faced another prolonged period of rising unemployment.

Dr John Philpot, director of the institute, said the outlook for unemployment looked bleak because of the Government's policy of relying on prolonged high interest rates to cut inflation. He said job losses in manufacturing would gather pace during 1990 and 1991, outpacing any growth in jobs elsewhere in the economy.

New firms no threat to power monopoly

By Martin Waller

PROSPECTS for effective competition for electricity customers, which have featured strongly in the Government's promotion of its scheme for electricity privatization, will be heavily dented by the City as it prepares to start selling the industry to the public this autumn.

In a detailed new research study, SG Warburg, joint broker to the sale of the 12 regional distribution companies, suggests that the threat to the distribution companies from outside competition has been exaggerated.

The study breaks down the companies' two main financial areas of operation, distribution and supply of electricity to the customer. The split reveals that the average company has relatively little to lose, even if customers took supplies direct from generating companies.

Distribution is effectively a local monopoly and can be viewed as a dependable utility-type business, such as water and gas supply. Warburg claims its model of a typical distribution company can expect to see revenues of £275 million from its distribution activities and £118 million profits before tax on an historic cost basis, the broker believes.

There is little chance of effective competition to the actual distribution network, rather as in the telecommunications industry, where the cost of duplicating British Telecom's cables has effectively shut Mercury out from competition except in areas of high density.

The supply business provides proportionately less profit — typically £11 million before tax on revenues of £810 million, says Mr Nigel Butler, the electricity analyst at Warburg.

He also sees little impact from big customers choosing to generate their own electricity. "If you look at what's happened to some of the schemes proposed, there's a lot of paper being generated but a lot fewer generating schemes than first thought."

Profits growth from the 12 companies, once they are privatized this autumn, will have to come from volume growth, which will be largely tied to demographic trends, and from efficiency improvements.

It sees much more scope for cuts in overheads at the four successor companies to the Central Electricity Generating Board. As many as 5,000 jobs could go at National Power over the next five years.

UBS deal on Blue Arrow compensation

By Carol Leonard

UBS Phillips & Drew, the securities house, is believed to be on the brink of offering 30p a share compensation to investors with whom it placed stock after Blue Arrow's ill-fated £837 million rights issue in 1987.

This gesture, expected to be announced this week, represents an about-turn from original policy.

Three months ago, UBS said it would not pay compensation until criminal proceedings stemming from the issue — over the manner in which the failure of the issue was not revealed to the Stock Exchange — had been settled.

UBS said any payment might prejudice a fair trial of the 11 defendants who face criminal charges, and who include two existing and two former UBS employees.

But its London securities business is thought to have been so badly affected by this stance, with many large institutions deleting the firm from their approved dealing lists, that it may, while still denying legal liability, be prepared to match the 30p a share compensation on offer from CNW.

CNW argued that the offer might prejudice a fair trial of the 11 defendants who face criminal charges, and who include two existing and two former UBS employees.

County has since made its own unilateral offer, of 50 per cent of the proposed compensation figure, and the negotiations with UBS have been undertaken by a co-ordinating committee of the Institutional Shareholders Committee, led by Mr Donald Brydon, of BZW Investment Management, and Mr Ron Arias, of Prudential Assurance. Last

month, the ISC, which represents more than 100 aggrieved institutions, issued a statement saying "constructive discussions" with UBS had taken place and that "detailed proposals are being framed which, it is hoped, will lead to a satisfactory conclusion."

A spokesman for UBS Phillips & Drew yesterday refused to confirm or deny that a settlement is imminent.

But UBS is nevertheless under pressure to make its final offer before the end of this month since that it the deadline for investors to register their claims with CNW, under the terms of its offer.

CNW's offer, which could cost it up to £30 million if all those eligible apply before the May 31 cut-off point, binds those investors who do make claims to a full and final settlement agreement. If UBS reveals its final offer before then it could lead, once again, to a last-minute joint offer being made by the two firms. Such a move would be welcomed by City institutions.

The offer is of 30p a share to anyone who bought shares in Blue Arrow, the employment agency group since renamed Manpower. It covers the post-rights placing, and those who bought shares in the period between the placing on September 29, 1987, and October 26, 1987 — when the shares hit their lowest level. It will also pay up to 8p a share interest.



Worries over loss of business: Rudolf Müller, chairman of UBS Phillips & Drew

Pesetas on demand for Britons

Pensions windfall at Daimler-Benz

By Wolfgang Münchau, European Business Correspondent

DAIMLER-BENZ, West Germany's largest company, is expected to announce a large rise in earnings tomorrow, up from DM1.7 billion to just under DM7 billion (£2.5 billion).

The rise, which comes despite stagnating operating profits, results from an extraordinary credit on the revaluation of pension liabilities.

Customers of the Royal Bank of Scotland, Girobank and Allied Irish Banks plus investors with the Britannia, Chelsea, Derbyshire, Dunfermline, Northern Rock, Towa & County and Yorkshire building societies will be able to withdraw up to £250 a day in the local currencies.

To use the Mutibanco machines in Portugal and those of Telebancos in Spain, customers must have a Link card or Royal Bank Cashline or Highline cards.

Renter: quotes planned

Battle for Peabody warms up

From Our Correspondent New York

DEALERS are anxiously waiting to see whether Amex, the materials group, will this week raise its offer for Peabody Holding, the leading US coal producer, after mounting a bid battle with Hanson.

On Friday, Amex upset Hanson's plan to wrap up the 55 per cent of Peabody Coal it does not own by offering Newton Mining \$1.3 billion for control of Peabody Holding, including \$718 million for the 55 per cent in Peabody Coal sought by Hanson.

Hanson replied by lifting its bid for Peabody Coal from \$715 million to \$725.6 million. Hanson paid \$504 million in February for its 45 per cent stake in Peabody Coal sought by Hanson.

The bid battle is a boon for Newton, which is seeking to reduce its \$2 billion debt incurred largely in fighting a 1987 bid by Mr T Boone Pickens, the corporate raider.

Introducing a very appetizing new mortgage.

It gives you jam today, jam tomorrow and jam the day after.

14.25%

(15.3%)

Typical APR

which can't rise above that level, you're protected against any more nasty surprises.

In the medium term, though, rates may start to fall. Again you benefit, because up to June 30th 1991 the rate will fall in line with the market.

So does this mean that June 30th 1991 is the day when a snag will appear?

Quite the reverse. On that date, you'll be offered a choice.

Either you can switch into a new, two-year fixed rate (which, again, will be in line with the market).

TEMPUS

The biggest gainers when rates decline

EVENTUALLY interest rates will have to come down and investors need to be ready.

Not all the sectors battered by high rates stand to recover equally. Housebuilders should benefit quickly as lower mortgage rates encourage a recovery in demand and the burden of financing land holdings is eased. But the property development sector has dug itself into a much deeper hole.

The shares to pick are also not necessarily the most highly geared, as not all of these will last the summer. Even among the survivors, some will have sustained such heavy damage that they are likely to take the earliest opportunity to repair their balance sheets.

For the time being, the strategy should be to pick good long-term investments while they are as cheap as they are ever likely to become.

The housebuilding sector has fallen by 30 per cent against the market in the past year, and there are stocks trading at little more than four times prospective earnings. Our selection of Wilson (Connolly), Wilson Bowden and Tarmac – chaired by Sir Eric Pountain – looks positively expensive by comparison, with our cheapest, Wilson Bowden, in line with the sector average on a prospective p/e ratio of six. But the company is not over-exposed to markets in the South-east



Potential beneficiaries: Pountain, left, and Halpern

PORTFOLIO FOR A RATES FALL

	Price (p)	Mr (£m)	Pre-tax profit (£m)	Earnings p/share (p)	PE ratio
Burton	163	908	205	23.6	7
T Cowie	37	47	16	10.8	3½
Dixons	55	480	70	11.0	11
Kingfisher	288	1270	225	31.3	9
Owners Abroad	55	48	17	11.3	5
Tarmac	232	1650	330	28.4	6
Wilson Bowden	258	172	41	41.0	5
Wilson (Connolly)	152	271	55	19.7	8

hit because of their retail property development activities, but improved trading would draw attention away from what is a second-line business for both companies.

Two other stocks will be worth a second look when interest rates fall. Shares in Owners Abroad have been hit by the clothing retailers, Sir Ralph Halpern's Burton will look more cheerful once over-mortgaged southern males decide they can again afford new suits. Both stocks have been

2000, is mainly centred on Manchester and Glasgow where travellers have been less affected by mortgages.

Finally, motor dealers have been marked down because of falling new car sales and the impending Monopolies Commission inquiry into the trade. But shares in T Cowie have been hit harder than most and at 37p, they stand at a quarter of their 1989 high. However, Cowie's 380 per cent gearing is less life-threatening than it seems and most of the debt is secured against its contract

hire fleet. Cowie should leap up at the first whiff of a fall in interest rates.

Crystalate

FORMER politicians have an unenviable reputation as company chairmen, a tradition being kept alive by Lord Jenkin, the former Environment Secretary at the helm of the electronic-components manufacturer Crystalate Holdings.

Crystalate unveiled some truly awful interim figures on Wednesday, featuring operating profits of a mere £31,000 set against a £1.15 million interest bill.

Pre-tax losses were £897,000, against profits of £2.29 million, and would have been worse still but for the unusual decision to take £225,000 profit from office relocation above the line.

The interim payout was held at 2.2p – a gesture of confidence, the company said,

although cynics might point to the bid battle with TT Group, which is offering £32 million of its own shares for Crystalate.

The bid is about the only thing mailing the shares anywhere near their Friday closing level of 79p. If TT succeeds, it will inherit Crystalate's problems of low demand and lower margins. Shareholders who have seen the price come down from a

1989 high of 185p should consider cutting their losses and selling in the market.

ECC Group

ECC Group has to convince the market it is not buying a pig in a poke with its \$520 million deal for Georgia Kaloin, the US industrial minerals group, on between 16 and 17 times earnings.

ECC is not a market favourite after turning in poorer interim figures (£66.3 million down to £50.9 million). The shares have under-performed and profit estimates for the 12 months to end-September have been downgraded to £140 million (£150.6 million).

ECC is moving to a 15-month reporting period ending December, and though earnings dilution is probably unavoidable for 1990, Georgia should be earnings positive in 1991.

Meanwhile, ECC is cutting its cost base and hopes to reap up to £100 million in asset sales in the next 18 months.

One investment sale which

would demonstrate a livelier management is the 29 per cent interest in Bryant, whose poor results saw ECC's associate profits fall from £9.9 million to £4.3 million in the half-year. The Bryant holding cost ECC £53 million at an effective 91.5p (now 80p), and a more profitable home for funds could win ECC back some of its lost following.

GILT-EDGED

Inflation holds the key to unlocking yield prospects

So the inflation doomsayers were proved wrong. The headline rate of inflation rose to just 9.4 per cent in April, while those much trumpeted but erroneous forecasts suggested a clear breach of 10 per cent would be recorded.

This is perhaps not surprising. The British public has a much better record of forecasting inflation than the collective wisdom of Treasury and City forecasters. The sustained rise in inflation from the first half of 1988, which has so surprised the Government, was picked up in survey data with almost a year's notice.

Such a development is not built into the markets' expectations. Assuming an underlying inflation rate of 7 per cent, the implied real yield on 10-year gilts is just over 5½ per cent. This is only a little higher than that available on average in the foreign bond markets.

There is no sign that inflation pressures are close to peaking. Basic pay deals have been averaging about 9 per cent, more than 2 per cent above the level achieved by the same groups last year. Indeed, there is evidence that people have been caught out by the latest inflation rise. If so, it may not be long before a 10 per cent becomes the going rate for wage deals.

At the same time, productivity growth is close to zero. Thus unit wage costs are also rising by almost 10 per cent. With sterling import prices rising at about 6 per cent a year, the increase in whole economy unit costs has been about 8.9 per cent over the past 12 months.

These cost increases will be passed on to final price rises this year unless profit margins are squeezed much more than they are now. Thus there remains the possibility of a further rise in the underlying rate of inflation. On our forecasts, the core rate, excluding mortgage rates and the poll tax, will rise from 7 per cent to a peak of 8 per cent in August, and continue to hover above 7 per cent for most of the year.

Adding the effects of the poll tax and previous mortgage rate rises, headline inflation would also peak in August at near 10 per cent with only a slight improvement later. In the fourth quarter, inflation may average 9¾ per cent, two points higher than forecast at Budget time.

Beyond this year there does not seem much prospect of a significant improvement in the underlying rate unless Britain experiences much more prolonged weakness in

the economy.

With the prospect of a Labour victory hanging over the market next year, the size of the headline and the underlying rate of inflation may well disappoint. A big change in the shape of the yield curve seems a safer bet as the Government finds it politically imperative to cut mortgage rates in a bid to recover its popularity before the general election.

David Walton

Goldman Sachs

International Ltd

US NOTEBOOK

Americans wake up to turnaround in interest rates

From Maxwell Newton, New York

Since April 27, the day the US employment numbers for April were released, there has been a dramatic change in world interest rates.

Some of the most striking of the changes have been:

- Six-month Libor has fallen from 9 per cent to 8½ per cent
- UK gilts have fallen in yield about 50 basis points;

● The US 10-year note yield has fallen from 9.06 per cent to about 8.7 per cent.

Now, with the shock of two months' decline in US retail sales in March and April, and two successive falls in producer prices, the worldwide interest rates drop has been given more confirmation.

Ordinary Americans had already woken up to what was going on. They sharply ran down their money market mutual fund balances and bought up big at the Treasury auctions last week. Since the beginning of April, money market mutual fund balances have dropped about \$10 billion, as investors bailed out of low-yielding funds and rushed to lock up higher yields available on Treasury and other longer-dated paper.

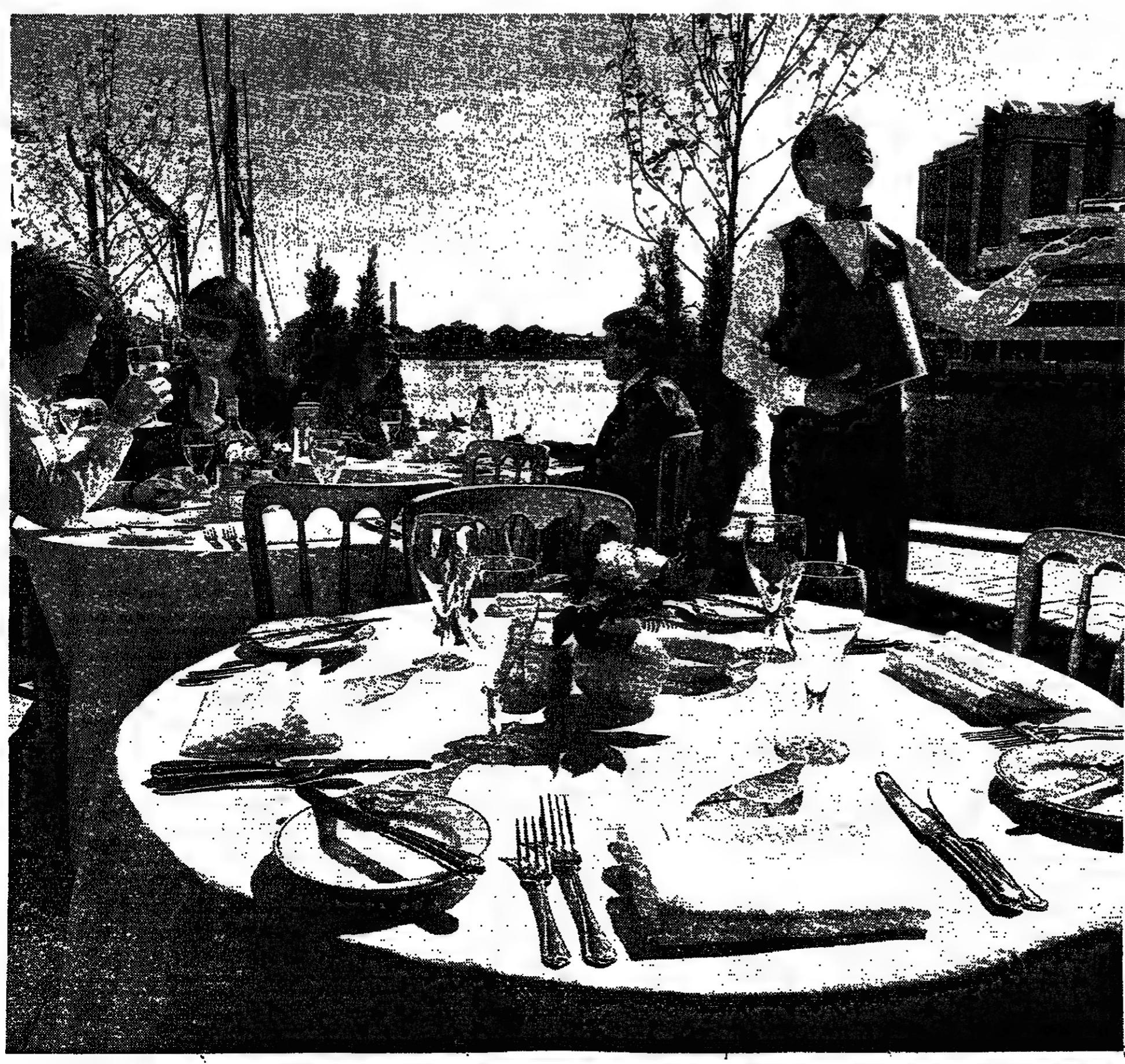
Falling newspaper advertising volume had foretold of bad times for the economy.

In a *Barron's* interview last week, Mr John Morton, the newspaper analyst, recounts the following exchange with Mr Warren Phillips, chairman of Dow Jones, at the newspaper publishers' convention in Los Angeles last month:

"I said to Warren: 'I see the Journal just ran a story about the newspaper industry recession.'

"He said: 'That was the second or third one we had run. What is interesting is people are talking about how everything was soft in January'

Buyout into the i
M&S likely
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Fayeds stay in harness
SPECULATION
TUE



EDGED
in holds the
unlocking
prospects

Buyout trend travels north into the industrial regions

By Rodney Hobson

HALF of Britain's large management buyouts are now taking place outside the traditional South-east area.

Despite the economic downturn and high interest rates, managers in the industrial heartlands are increasingly taking over ownership of their companies, according to 3i, the largest source of venture capital in Britain.

Of 190 buyouts valued at more than £10 million backed by 3i over the past five years, 92 were outside the South-east. About two-thirds took place in the past two years, mainly in Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and Bristol.

The trend has continued this year, along with the virtual disappearance of deals topping £50 million. Just one was backed by 3i in the first quarter of 1990, while 14 deals were for between £10 million and 50 million.

In the whole of 1989, there were 16 above £50 million and 53 in the lower range. Mr Paul

Waller, a director of 3i, said: "There is an unwillingness of international banks to finance senior debt for very large management buyouts but the supply of equity finance is still there for deals at all levels. It is still possible to raise debt for medium-sized deals."

The main boost has come from parent companies in need of cash selling off peripheral manufacturing subsidiaries. Deals are done because sellers are asking more realistic prices.

In contrast, the South-east has seen a slowdown in buyouts because construction, services and retailing, which had grown fastest around London, have been hit hardest by company crashes.

Mr Waller said: "Where Britain is scoring at the moment is in its efficient manufacturing base. Without a shadow of a doubt, it is better managed and more efficient than it has ever been." He added: "Over the past two to



Waller: a local advantage

three years, we have seen buyout skills sharpened outside London.

"Three years ago, the skills were not there among accountants, lawyers and bankers. Now, the whole regional business community is geared to coping with transactions on a larger scale. It is a strong and sustainable trend."

Mr Waller said it is not a case of buyout specialists moving out of London, but rather that expertise in han-

dling buyouts has been learned in the regions.

This has been a crucial factor in the growth of deals in regions where, 10 years ago, buyouts of more than £10 million were unheard of.

Large management buyouts are time-consuming, with negotiations often stretching to four months. Mr Waller said: "One of the great problems for management teams is that they have to get on with running the business while coping with the distraction of the buyout. The ability to deal locally, rather than come to London, is a very real advantage.

"The more venture capitalists, accountants, lawyers and bankers work together, the more they refine their skills. Nobody is having to re-invent the wheel."

While deals rarely top £50 million now, Mr Waller claimed: "Within a year or two, the regions are likely to handle deals worth up to £100 million quite comfortably."

REPORTING THIS WEEK

M&S likely to ring up £590m

TODAY

FINAL pre-tax profits at Marks and Spencer, Britain's biggest retailer which is headed by Lord Rayner, are expected to advance from £532.7 million to £590 million, according to Mr Ian Macdougall at Nomura Research. The figures will benefit from good volume growth and low exposure to cost pressures. Market forecasts range from £575 million to £605 million.

Interims: Holmes & Merchant Group, Imperial Cold Storage & Supply Co, Kunkle, Thordarson Oriental Income Fund, TMD Advertising Holdings.

Finals: English and International Trust, London American Ventures Trust, Marks and Spencer, New Ireland Holdings, Stratton Investment Trust, Walker Greenbank.

Economic statistics: CBI/FT survey of distributive trades (April), retail sales (April - provisional), producer price index numbers (April - provisional).

TOMORROW

Allied-Lyons, the food and drinks group chaired by Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, is expected to report taxable profits of £360 million for the full year, against £502 million, according to Mr Tim Clarke at Panmure Gordon. Forecasts range from £350 million to £570 million.

A significant contribution from ConsGold will boost profits at Hanson, Lord Hanson's conglomerate. County NatWest WoodMac has pencilled in £570 million for the half-year, compared with £447 million. This is at the top end of forecasts which start at £525 million.

UBS Phillips & Drew expects final pre-tax profits to climb from £375 million to 2,442 million at Sainsbury (J), the supermarkets chain headed by Lord Sainsbury. This includes £30 million of property profits. Market forecasts, excluding property, range from £410 million to £413 million.

Interim pre-tax profits at Vaux Group, the Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, hotels and



Holden-Brown: profit forecasts for Allied-Lyons range as high as £570 million

brewing group, are expected to expand from £11.9 million to £13.7 million, benefiting from a solid performance by hotels.

Interims: Alexander Holdings, Concentro, Dunedin Worldwide Investment Trust, Hanson, Metro Radio Group, Mining & Allied Services, National Grid (first quarter), Richards, River & Mercantile American Capital & Income Trust, Sedgwick Group, Vaux Group.

Finals: Addison Consultancy Group, Allied-Lyons, Analysts Holdings, Apollo Metals, Sanitary (J), Vivat Holdings, Warner Howard Group.

Economic statistics: Acquisitions and mergers (first quarter).

WEDNESDAY

Grand Metropolitan, the food and drinks group, is expected to announce interim pre-tax profits of £385 million, against £301 million, according to Mr Colin Davies at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, with forecasts between £365 million and £400 million.

Full-year replacement cost net income is expected to reach £730 million in the first quarter at Shell Transport and

Trading, compared with £1.11 billion last time, according to EZW. On a historical cost basis, which includes stock profits, EZW expects net income of £690 million, against £1.28 billion, but this is at the lower end of forecasts which rise to £950 million.

Interims: Avon Rubber, Baggsbridge Brick, Commercial Union Assurance (first quarter), Diploma, Remond High Income Investment Trust, Grand Metropolitan, Greenhill Whitley Group, Development Capital Trust, Northern Industrial Improvement Trust, Thomson Corporation, Unilever (first quarter), Wimford Investments.

Finals: Baris Holdings, Gieve Group, Govett American Endeavour Fund.

Economic statistics: Capital expenditure by the manufacturing industry (first quarter - provisional), interest rates, borrowing requirements (April), labour market statistics - unemployment and vacancies (April - provisional), average earnings indices (March - provisional), employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs, industrial disputes.

THURSDAY

Mr Ron Littleboy at Nomura Research is expecting annual pre-tax profits at Whitbread, the brewer chaired by Mr Sam Whitbread, to rise from £223 million to £252 million, including £28 million of property profits. Market forecasts range from £230 million to £260 million.

Full-year replacement cost net income is expected to reach £730 million in the first quarter at Shell Transport and

FRIDAY

Interims: Moran Holdings, Overseas Investment Trust, Finsbury Value and Income Trust.

Philip Pangalos

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Fayeds stay in harness

SPECULATION that Harrods, the "top people's store", might lose both its royal warrant and its banking licence - as a direct consequence of the damming report by the Department of Trade and Industry into the Fayeds' takeover of House of Fraser - appears to be ill-founded. Sponsoring the Royal Windsor Horse Show at the weekend for the seventh successive year - and at a cost of some £250,000 a time - Mohamed Al-Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, had extended a personal invitation to the Duke of Edinburgh to attend a cocktail party on the eve of the show in a marquee alongside the showground on Friday night. Prince Philip not only graciously accepted, but he stayed for more than one and half hours - considerably longer than had been anticipated - chattering happily to Mohammed and his brother, Ali. In fact, so long did he linger, with no visible sign of embarrassment, that dinner for the Fayeds' other 60 or so guests - who included Iosceles chairman and former Harrods director Ernest Sharp - was served some 20 minutes behind schedule. Adding further to this royal seal of approval, Geoffrey Cross, the chairman of the Royal Windsor Horse Show Committee, was adamant that the Fayeds' involvement with the prestigious event would continue in the future. Addressing Ali, he said: "I anticipate, in fact I know, that this is going on for many years. You have not

actually agreed to it yet but I have asked you to have lunch with me next week and I am sure that this will occur."

• DISAGREEING with my claim last week that the apparently never-ending series of anecdotes being proffered by readers was fast-deteriorating, Stephen Hall-Jones, the barrister in charge of Ladbrooke's legal department, insists that he has "an improvement on the recent batch." He tells of a barrister "in practice in the Middle Temple and on the Western circuit, who named his horse Circuit - so that his clerk could legitimately say to solicitors seeking his services, that 'counsel was not able to speak to them as he was out on circuit.'

Turf-ed out

RACING man David Chapman, who had been head of UK equity sales at Banque Paribas, until it merged its UK and European desks into one and put Dutchman Seán Bril in overall charge, has resigned from the firm and will, I can reveal, be joining a rival French bank - Société Générale. Strauss Turnbull, Chapman, aged 41, and a well-known market character, will be working alongside the former Warburg duo David Attard, these days head of sales at SGST, and Julian Burn-Callander. Describing Chapman as a traditional UK equity salesman, Chris Cartwright, head of equities at Paribas, tells me: "Our European strategy obviously doesn't suit everyone and David leaves with our genuine best wishes for the future."

But Chapman, clearly not an impoverished individual, has had other things than just employment contracts on his mind in recent weeks. As a key shareholder in the racing consortium Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds - managed by Harry Herbert, son of Lord Carnarvon, the Queen's racing manager - he was on tenterhooks when one of its horses, Book The Band, was a runner up in the 1,000 Guineas. And former Laurie Milbank partner Chapman - whose fellow Kennet Valley shareholders include Ben Allen, of UBS Phillips & Drew, and David Hatch, once with Simon & Coates - reveals that the consortium has one or two other well-fancied nags still to run this season.

• TALK about appropriate names... the editorial secretary at the Racing Post is apparently one Sadie Evans. All aboard

A NEW meaning will shortly apply to the phrase "captive audience." The event in question is the Personal Investment Marketing Show which is corralling 900 financial intermediaries on the cruise liner *Canberra* for three days in June. They will be unable to escape the beguiling sales talk of their hosts - all of whom have financial products and services to sell them. As for the vendors - well, Peter Jeffreys and Richard Timberlake will also be on board selling their new service, Fund Research Ltd, which analyses just how badly each investment product has performed against its peers.

Carol Leonard

Growth of engineering set to slow

By Colin Narbrough

ENGINEERING will outperform many sectors of the economy this year and next, but growth rates will be sharply lower than during the investment boom conditions of 1988 and early last year, Cambridge Econometrics says in its latest forecast.

Large management buyouts are time-consuming, with negotiations often stretching to four months. Mr Waller said: "One of the great problems for management teams is that they have to get on with running the business while coping with the distraction of the buyout. The ability to deal locally, rather than come to London, is a very real advantage.

"The more venture capitalists, accountants, lawyers and bankers work together, the more they refine their skills. Nobody is having to re-invent the wheel."

While deals rarely top £50 million now, Mr Waller claimed: "Within a year or two, the regions are likely to handle deals worth up to £100 million quite comfortably."

ECONOMIC VIEW

How to cut deficits on 'no new taxes' pledge

The long-running soap opera of the US budget deficit seems at last to be colliding with reality. Tomorrow, President Bush will meet Congressional leaders for a summit on how to make progress in cutting the deficit. For the first time, there will be "no pre-condition" to the talks.

Ever since the move was announced last week, the President's cheer-leaders have been trying to reassure Republicans that the President was not renegeing on his "read my lips - no new taxes" pledge. But the betting among officials is that there will have to be some revenue-raising components to any serious attempt to rein back the deficit. An increase in sales taxes, on energy

products, is seen as highly probable.

The dimensions of the problem are set by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Deficit Reduction Act. This states that unless the economy moves into recession, the deficit for the fiscal year, starting on October 1, shall be no more than \$64 billion. To get sufficiently close to that figure to avoid a "sequester" - statutory across-the-board cut which could severely disrupt public services - now requires a reduction in the planned deficit of about \$50 billion.

In January, the Administration estimated the gap at about \$35 billion, but since then the fiscal position has deteriorated because of lower corporate profits earned in a slowing economy, higher interest rates and a higher stock of debt. The outturn this year is expected to be about \$140 billion (excluding the effect of bailing out Savings and Loan institutions), against the Gramm-Rudman target of \$100 billion.

A cut of \$50 billion in next year's budget deficit is for practical purposes impossible. The "peace dividend", arising from reduced military tension, may yield \$5 billion to \$10 billion. Social programmes like Medicare, which have been Republican targets, are proving harder to pare.

But the arithmetic is confused by two other factors. The first is the S&L fiasco. Under present law, the cost of bailing out thrifths has to be counted as part of the Budget. But even the Congressional Budget Office - the closest thing to a non-partisan player in the budget - thinks this is absurd. It would mean a huge increase in the magnitude of the problem for a year or two (\$40 billion this year) followed by a deceptive tightening of the fiscal position as sales of S&L assets cut the deficit. In any case the money paid out to insolvent thrifths goes straight back into Treasury bills. There is pressure to score only the

immediate outlook is for some moderate increase in the Federal Funds rate as the Federal Reserve Board moves to head off a rise in inflation to just over 5 per cent after 4% per cent in the fourth quarter of 1989. Any increase in foreign rates will not be good for sterling and could put pressure on the Chancellor to raise interest rates again.

Cutting the deficit would also contribute to the pool of world savings which the International Monetary Fund identified as a priority last week.

Increasing private sector savings may be desirable, but increasing public sector savings is easier. The next few weeks may show whether, and to what extent, the US can contribute to this process.

Rodney Lord

Economics Editor



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The sun rises on a changed society

Like a conjurer's assistant who is sawn in half and run through with sabres only to emerge unscathed and beaming, Japan has a knack of absorbing the most juddering shocks to its system with barely a scratch or a murmur.

The Japanese economy seems to thrive in the face of setbacks. Political scandals come and go without loosening the Liberal Democrats' postwar grip on power. Japan's society freely mixes kimonos with computers, maintaining an insularity that has withstood decades of "Westernization". Politically, the country is firmly in the Western camp, but its ways remain a mystery to even its closest allies.

But after a year of political, financial and social turmoil, people are wondering whether Japan, a country which always seems to be hovering tantalizingly at the crossroads of change, is finally making a move.

It has certainly been offered plenty of opportunities to rethink its course. A huge bribery scandal brought pandemonium to politics. Relations with the United States began to curdle because of Washington's frustration over America's large and unshakable trade deficit with Tokyo, and because of American hostility towards takeovers of US icons such as Columbia Pictures and the Rockefeller Center, in New York. The convulsions in eastern Europe have left Japan, the only Western power still frosty towards Mikhail Gorbachev, wondering where it fits into the post-cold war order.

Probably none of these sent as many shivers of panic and self-pity through the country as the recent collapse of the Tokyo stock market — the main measure, for many Japanese, of their country's economic virility. It was a jolt even more than it did the many foreigners who had convinced themselves that Japan had found a way to defy the laws of economics. A stock market collapse is a headache for any country, but it was a nightmare for a nation that has put all its efforts since the Second World War into becoming economically successful.

Have none of these thunderbolts left any scars? There are a

The recent collapse of the Tokyo stock exchange, coming on top of social and political turmoil, has prompted many Japanese to question whether all the hard work, the long commutes and short holidays are worth the effort, Joe Joseph reports

few, although even they may soon be too slight to notice. But the troubles of the Tokyo stock market — which has lost about a quarter of its worth so far this year, or more than the value of all the shares on the London stock exchange — and the weakening of the yen will probably change attitudes in Japan more than most of the country's other recent shocks.

At first, most Japanese were

foolishness of all work and no play. As melodramatic Japanese editorial writers warned that the sun was setting on Japan's golden age, and that within a just a few years the famous, life-sustaining trade surpluses would vanish, many Japanese felt they were about to begin a slide into poverty without ever having enjoyed the fruits of their success.

They looked once more at their modest apartments and their long commutes to their offices. They thought about their society — in which the average mortgage would leave most Europeans feeling weak at the knees; in which Sunday in the park is more crowded than the London Underground at rush hour; in which, except for the more wealthy company directors and political bigwigs, a game of golf is an annual treat; in which a bizarre distribution system ensures that even Japanese goods are pricier in Tokyo than they are in London or New York — and they wondered whether the time had come for a change of priorities.

Nor was it the first time these doubts had arisen. "It is questionable whether Japan's economic growth is reflected in the quality of Japanese life," Haruo Mackawa, former Governor of the Bank of Japan, said back in 1987, when he was commissioned to report on ways to improve the situation. "Housing standards are low, the cost of living high and working hours long."

There have since appeared more red Mercedes coupés on Tokyo streets and more Louis Vuitton bags on women's shoulders, but for most Japanese, things have not improved. Seven out of 10 Japanese do not feel affluent.

The stock market upheaval has refocused attention on the gulf between Japan's bank balance and



Faces of change: young people in Japan are rejecting their parents' lifestyle for one of greater leisure; Tokyo's subway in peak hours often resembles a monument to the work ethic



the quality of life of the mass of Japanese. If the older generation has grown used to long working days, short holidays and cramped apartments, their children are no longer so tolerant.

They hear economists such as Kenneth Courtis, of the Tokyo office of Deutsche Bank, predicting that Japan's economy will brush off the stock market's worries and will continue to boom, and that by the turn of the century Japan's per capita gross national product will be about 50

per cent higher than that of the US, and they see room to relax.

Forced by Japan's dizzy land prices to give up any hope of buying a house, younger Japanese are spending their savings on having more fun. Newly graduated job-seekers are less keen to devote their entire working lives to one company, or all their evenings to entertaining their company's clients.

Although it is not yet a revolution in lifestyles, the move towards greater leisure is probably

the most noticeable change in Japan today. In other areas, however, life in Japan seems to have absorbed the jolts of the past 12 months and reverted, for the most part, to business as usual. Once again, Japan-US relations have unravelled and been patched up — until the next time.

Officials from Tokyo and Washington have just thrashed out a series of deals designed to open up Japan's market and thereby trim America's trade deficit with Japan. It is the latest in a string of

such packages stretching back years. Economically, it will probably have as little effect as its predecessors, although politically it allows both governments to claim peace with honour.

Japanese politics are also likely to emerge little affected by last year's turmoil. The Recruit bribery scandal, in which a pushy businessman sprinkled cash among top politicians and bureaucrats, felled the Prime Minister of the time, Noboru Takeshita. It also triggered much soul-searching and unleashed a deluge of criticism of Japan's outdated, money-hungry political machinery.

But the Recruit affair was barely mentioned in the general election in February, and certainly did not prevent the re-election of the Liberal Democrats or of the MPs tainted by the scandal.

The downfall last summer of Sosuke Uno, Mr Takeshita's successor, over his extra-marital affairs with bar girls gave angry women a louder voice on the political scene, and helped to hoist Takako Doi, the clever and charismatic leader of Japan's opposition Socialists, into the headlines.

But already Miss Doi is yesterday's news. The idea of a woman Prime Minister in Japan's male-dominated society once again seems as far-fetched as the idea that the Socialists could ever kick out of office the conservative Liberal Democrats, in power for 35 years.

But if stability-loving Japan is pleased to return to business as usual at home, it is not so keen to stick with its sheepish image abroad. Once happy to stay rich and out of sight, Japan now seems eager to add its voice to international decision-making. It resents accusations that its diplomacy and its decisions on foreign aid — Japan is the world's second biggest aid donor, after the US — are geared only to its own financial needs.

The changes in eastern Europe, the birth of the integrated European market, the new chumminess between Moscow and Washington, have all convinced Japan that it must speak up about how these changes will affect the world, if only to make sure that Japan is not left out in the cold.

Toshiki Kaifu, the new Prime Minister, has been travelling the world to make it clear that Japan is not just interested in writing the cheques, but wants a say in how the changing world develops.

But Japan is paying for its years of silence. It is not known for its bold diplomatic initiatives, especially in areas outside its backyard in Asia. All the big Western powers acknowledge Japan has a part to play, but so far it is still having some difficulty getting its voice heard.

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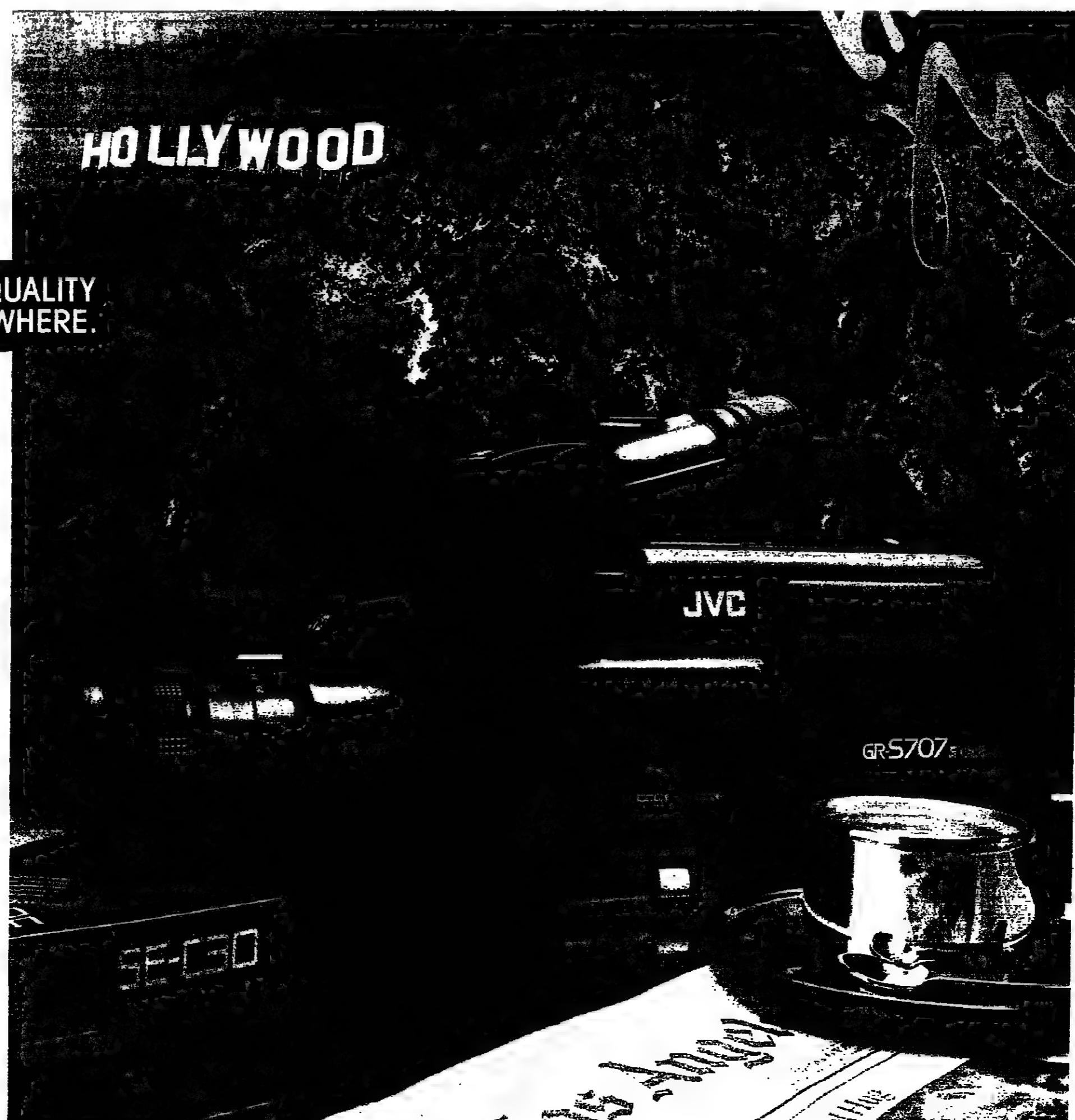
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JAPAN/2

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu looks set for a surprisingly long innings, writes Joe Joseph

'Night-watchman' in form

Just a few weeks ago, notwithstanding the Government's huge victory in February's general elections, bookmakers would have offered long odds against Toshiki Kaifu lasting much longer as Japan's prime minister.

Even his closest friends might have advised him, tactfully, not to bother ruining his diary by inking in a rendezvous with other world leaders at this summer's Houston summit. The plane ticket would be in someone else's name.

But Mr Kaifu has taken to his new job, and looks as though he may be able to keep it for a while after all. Brought in last August as night watchman to defend the cease after the fiasco of the Recruit bribery scandal had felled the big hitters of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Mr Kaifu is proving to be a cracker batsman than anyone imagined.

His longevity has given hope to those Japanese who have been trying to ensure that the Recruit affair does not become the latest of a string of postwar political bribery scandals that hit the headlines for a few weeks but leave few scars.

When the results of the February 18 election came in, there were certainly few grounds for hope. Not only was the LDP, in power since 1955, back in office, but every MP whose pockets had been lined by Recruit, a pushy information group that tried very hard to buy friends in high places, was re-elected.

Noboru Takeshita, who was forced to resign as prime minister a year ago over his links to the Recruit mess, remains the most powerful man in Japanese politics, running the country by remote control. It was Mr Takeshita who picked Mr Kaifu as a seat-warmer in August when Sosuke Uno, his first choice, was brought down because of his weakness for bar girls.

On February 19, Mr Kaifu woke up to read both of his party's triumph at the polls and of his colleagues' moves to ditch him and install his successor. Shintaro Abe, one of the LDP's elders and the man next in line for the premier's job in accordance with an agreement worked out long ago with Mr Takeshita, was already practising his acceptance speech.

As one member of Mr Abe's faction put it at the time: "We can bring down Kaifu any time we want. We are waiting for the most



Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu: set to keep his job for a while

'Cynics say Mr Takeshita has identified an opportunity for his own return to centre stage'



Noboru Takeshita: in the wings

appropriate time to launch such a move. We don't want the public to see us as villains preying on a weak Kaifu." But Mr Abe's acolytes are less noisy nowadays.

Mr Kaifu has proved to be stronger and more clever than his rivals expected. Lacking a power base of his own within the LDP, Mr Kaifu went over the heads of the LDP's barons and made his case directly to the people.

Helping him was the President of the United States, George Bush,

who arranged a high-profile summit in California soon after the elections in which he urged Mr Kaifu to ditch the bad old ways of Japanese politics — in which laws are designed by bureaucrats who often have a vested interest in changing little — and to show bold political leadership in moving to resolve trade disputes that were souring Japan-US relations.

Unshackled by obligations to this or that interest group, Mr Kaifu, an eloquent speaker, had

little to lose. He argued that American requests — for freer trade, for a less multi-layered distribution system, for the opening of large supermarkets and department stores that had more room for imports and which could offer a rival service to overpriced corner stores — would benefit Japanese consumers.

The argument struck a chord at a time when many Japanese, left out of the land price boom that has created a new millionaire class in a traditionally middle-class society, were suddenly feeling poor and cheated.

Mr Takeshita and Mr Abe had been waiting for the inexperienced Mr Kaifu, whose only Cabinet service before being plucked from obscurity last autumn was a stint as education minister, to stumble over his dealings with Washington to ease him out of office. Poor US-Japan relations can mean the end for a Japanese leader.

But the LDP's *ancien régime* miscalculated badly. When Mr Bush announced that "the leadership of Prime Minister Kaifu has brought a new spirit of cooperation to our relationship", Mr Kaifu's already rising popularity at home swelled further.

The current political wisdom is that Mr Kaifu has earned a longer tenure. He will be able to shake hands at Houston after all. But that does not mean Japan has entered a new era in which politicians in their fifties, such as Mr Kaifu, can seriously aspire to high office, or in which politicians become imaginative policymakers rather than rubber-stampers of their civil servants' ideas, or in which the warlords who rule the LDP become yesterday's men.

The embarrassing revelations of the Recruit scandal have done little to change money's central influence on Japanese politics.

February's election, run on the old principle that cash still wins seats, probably cost the LDP at least 200 billion yen. Despite Mr Kaifu's triumphs, he still rules only because Mr Takeshita lets him.

Why is Mr Takeshita being so generous? Cynics say that with Mr Abe, who is anyway in poor health, looking less and less like Japan's next Prime Minister, Mr Takeshita has begun to see an opportunity for his own return to centre stage in a year or two.

Perhaps Japanese politics have not changed that much after all.



The way forward: Japan's Toshiki Kaifu and US President George Bush discuss trade relations

Balancing relations with US

How to find a happy, diplomatic medium

technological excellence, has been

articulated most forcefully in the best-selling book, *The Japan that can say No*, co-authored by Shinjiro Ishihara, a maverick Liberal Democratic Party politician, and Akio Morita, the chairman of Sony, which castigates the Americans for their racist and myopic attitudes.

Yet, at the same time, the Japanese are slowly, if rather uncertainly, grasping that they are now expected, not least by the Americans, to contribute more to the international political and security order.

The trade imbalance has long been the nub of tension in the bilateral relationship. But recently the Americans have become disturbed by the wave of large-scale and high-prestige Japanese investments (of which Sony's acquisition of Columbia Pictures and Mitsubishi's controlling share of the Rockefeller Center have been the most controversial) and by signs that Japan has gained the edge in several hi-tech areas.

The Japanese are self-confident about their commercial prowess, and while many of them realize that the persistent US trade deficit with Japan, which in 1989 hovered about the \$50 billion mark for the second year running, is "unhealthy", most feel it is the US which is the patient more in need of curing.

A strain of resentment at US "Japan-bashing", which is seen as tantamount to punishing the Japanese for their hard work and

number of other hi-tech sectors, was about to target the aviation industry. The result was to amplify feelings of economic nationalism in both countries.

The structural impediments initiative (SII) negotiations were conceived as yet another way to tackle the trade imbalance. They were intended to be a "two-way street", as President Bush himself said, but in practice they have closely followed the traditional ritual of the Japanese making concessions after heavy American pressure.

Faced with the prospect of being named for the second year running under the "super 301" provisions of the Omnibus Trade Act (a spectre which has now faded), the Japanese grudgingly came to a series of sector-specific market-opening agreements and, more significantly, endorsed in early April an interim SII agreement on reducing broader structural barriers.

But the Japan-US relationship is as much about political and security cooperation as it is about economic interdependence.

Certainly, the Japanese Government's massive overseas development aid and its funding support for the Third World debt reduction programmes of Nicholas Brady, the US Treasury Secretary, do contribute to this sharing of responsibilities.

But in Japan there is both a reluctance to acknowledge too openly the strategic implications and a resentment that Japan often ends up picking up the bill for US priorities.

Moreover, for all Mr Kaifu's attempt to respond to the idea of James Baker, the US Secretary of State, of a "global partnership", in political and security terms the Japanese still tend to think regionally rather than globally.

Brian Bridges

• The author is director of *Jai International*.

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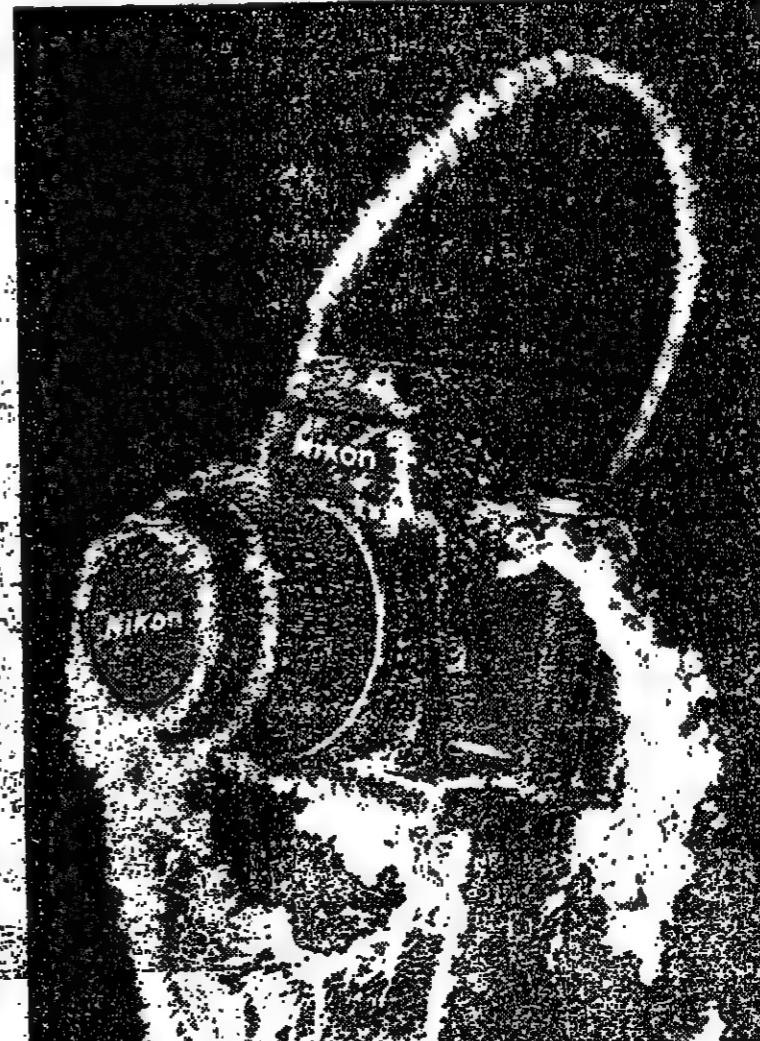
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The economic enigma survives

The Japanese economy, which is still the one that most developing countries want to emulate – and which sets the industrial standards for Britain to try to match – has had an unmistakable air of crisis about it recently.

The Tokyo stock market has pulled out of its free fall of early spring, but nervousness remains. The yen has been the weakest of the major currencies this year, prompting a call by Ryutaro Hashimoto, the finance minister, for joint action by the leading industrial countries to stabilize it.

The response to this request came at the meeting of the Group of Seven (the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada) in Paris on April 7. The G7 finance ministers and central bankers warned of the "undesirable consequences" of the yen's weakness, and promised to keep it under review. Perhaps it was the novelty of Japan's request, or simply unstated satisfaction among countries whose normal role it is to take the begging bowl along to such

Although the yen has weakened and inflation is rising, Japan still has an economy most countries would willingly exchange for their own, says David Smith

meetings, that the response was not stronger.

In early May, when the G7 met again, this time in Washington, members were pleased to note that the yen had stabilized, but they were still of the view that its continued low level would make it harder to cut the Japanese trade surplus, and its main counterpart – the US trade deficit.

The yen's unaccustomed

weakness, and the nervous mood that has prevailed for much of this year in the Tokyo stock and bond markets, have their roots in several related economic fears.

The strongest of these is inflation. The Japanese have, over the years, become accustomed to sky-high land prices. In the cities, they have accepted that the purchase of a house or flat may require a mortgage with a repayment term that stretches for two or three generations. Real estate in central Tokyo is the most expensive in the world.

This year concern has been growing about these rising land prices, both because of their inflationary impact and the danger that the Japanese property market represents an enormous speculative bubble that could burst with disastrous economic consequences.

The reason why land prices have become an important economic issue in Japan, after years during which their rise was regarded as a fact of life, owes much to Yasujiro Mieno, who became governor of the Bank of Japan last December. He soon made clear that land-



Air of crisis: the stock market has stabilized but there is still a feeling of nervousness

price inflation was one of the chief concerns in the situation he had inherited. Mr Mieno could point to a number of other worries, including too rapid a rate of growth of the money supply, and the pressures on industrial capacity, resulting from the pace of Japan's economic expansion. Rapid economic growth in Japan was nothing new. The difference this time was that it was accompanied by a

strengthening of expectations among Japanese workers and consumers. Successive Japanese leaders, tired of ear-bashings about their protected home market at international gatherings, and worried about tit-for-tar protectionist legislation by, in particular, the US Congress, had urged the population to spend more, notably on imported goods.

The Westernization of the

Japanese consumer has taken time, but it is now taking effect. The Japanese are saving less and spending more on imports. The current account surplus is not about to disappear, but it is definitely shrinking. In the last fiscal year, which ended on March 31, the surplus was \$33.5 billion (£32 billion), compared with \$77.3 billion in the previous year.

Meanwhile, Japanese work-

ers are acting more like their counterparts in Europe and the US. Their response to rising prices and labour shortages is to seek higher pay settlements.

The Tokyo financial markets, and in particular the market for government bonds, have picked up the inflationary warning signals and reacted accordingly. What has added to their concern has been the inability of the Bank of Japan and the ministry of finance to agree on the correct response to such warnings.

Under Mr Mieno, the official

discount rate has been raised

on two occasions – on Christ-

mas Day last year, and on

March 20. The latter increase,

by 1 percentage point, took the

rate to 5.25 per cent.

On each occasion, however, the increase was only announced after public disagreement had surfaced between the bank and the ministry, with the latter taking the view that inflation worries have been exaggerated and concerned about the impact of the rising cost of borrowing on the popularity of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Outside LDP circles, the fear is that if there is an inflationary time bomb ticking away in the Japanese economy, then the Bank of Japan will be constrained from taking action to prevent it exploding.

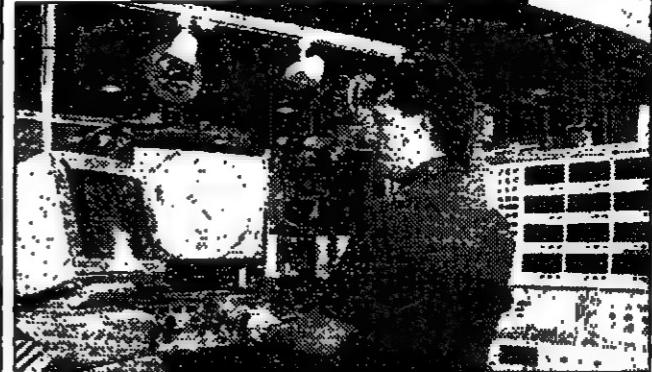
This was another reason why members of the G7 were unwilling to come to the aid of

Japan in its hour of difficulties over the yen. Finance ministry and central bank officials in Europe and the US believe that Japan is experiencing the inflationary pain resulting from economic and financial liberalization, just as they did in the 1980s. The inference is that, just as Europe and the US had to take hard decisions by raising interest rates sharply, so too must Japan.

As always, however, Japan represents something of an economic enigma. Inflation worries there are, but even the gloomiest of forecasters do not expect prices to rise at an annual rate of much more than 3 per cent over the next two years. The economy may be running into capacity constraints, but business investment is strong and Japan has adapted and adjusted to much more difficult economic challenges in the past – the two oil crises of the 1970s and early 1980s being cases in point.

The risk of Japan's economy being beached by protectionist action abroad has diminished. Not only is the trade surplus shrinking (although the yen's fall makes the continuation of this decline less certain than it was), but the clumsy named structural impediments initiative (SII) talks between Japan and the US have reduced the risk of pre-emptive action on trade by Washington.

There are undoubtedly problems for the Japanese economy, but they are ones that many countries would willingly exchange for their own.



At the forefront: Sony set up in Britain in 1974

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Springboard into the single market

Japan is stepping up its already strong

manufacturing investments in Britain

The zip maker, YKK, was the first Japanese company to set up manufacturing in Britain, in 1972. Two years later Sony began what was to turn into a tide of Japanese consumer electronics specialists crowding into this country (Derek Harries, *Industrial Editor*, writes).

Now the Japanese are sweeping in on many manufacturing fronts, from Nissan in cars to Mizuno in golf clubs, as well as moving into property and finance.

One estimate is that Japanese companies are likely to create an extra 4,500 manufacturing jobs by the middle of next year and another 2,000 in finance, property development and import and export businesses. The estimate comes from the London research group, Economic Development Briefing, which believes that over the past five years Japanese manufacturers have trebled their UK workforce to nearly 30,000.

There are estimated 600 Japanese businesses operating in Britain, while the Invest in Britain Bureau lists 118 Japanese manufacturers as having established themselves. During the 1970s and the early part of the 1980s the annual flow into Britain of Japanese manufacturers was running in single figures, but in 1986 the number rose to 14, and that was followed by a big jump to 31 in 1987 as the Japanese began increasingly to look to Britain as a springboard into Europe and especially into the European Community's now looming single market. In 1988 sixteen came in, and 1989 saw another 26.

The manufacture of consumer electronics goods is strongly established in Britain, especially in south Wales. There are more than 25 Japanese electronics companies here, employing about 20,000 people and representing a collective investment of about £1.3 billion by the end of last year. This is well over a doubling in three years. Some, such as Matsushita, have several factories operating.

The investment level in turning out goods such as television sets and video cassette recorders is expected to rise to about £1.7 billion by 1994, according to the Electronic Industries Association of Japan. The association believes that Britain is likely to remain a favoured location for Japanese electronics companies and could well be used if, as is likely, Japanese companies move in to exploit the freeing up of telecommunications.

Sharp, the Japanese electronics company with two manufacturing plants in Britain, is to establish a European centre for research and development in Oxford. It could help deflect the criticisms

sometimes levelled against the Japanese presence in Britain as providing only "screwdriver" branch plants.

Construction of the centre is expected to start later this year at Magdalen College's newly launched Oxford Science Park. Sharp is putting in start-up funding of £10 million.

Pioneer is due to open a £17 million audio and video machines factory at Wakefield, West Yorkshire, in May next year.

Two initiatives that have caught the headlines, because of the size of investments needed and the numbers of jobs created, are Nissan's new operational car manufacturing plant in the north-east and Toyota's planned car plant for Burnaston, in Derbyshire.

A feature of Nissan's UK operations is the £31 million research centre, which will design models for the European market. The centre will have a twin base, at Cranfield in Bedfordshire and at Sunderland, near Nissan's Washington plant. The Washington plant employs more than 2,500 people and by 1992 is due to create a further 2,500 jobs.

The north-east has been attracting Japanese companies on the pattern already found in south Wales and Scotland. NSK, in ball bearings, was an early north-east recruit. Others include Komatsu in earthmoving equipment and Sanyo. Fujitsu, the Japanese computer manufacturer, is building a £200 million semiconductor factory near Darlington, County Durham, which could create up to 2,000 jobs.

A third Japanese force in UK car production is Honda, which has close links with Rover, now part of British Aerospace (BAe). Honda and Rover each have a 20 per cent stake in the other, and Honda is making a big contribution to Rover design. Honda is establishing a factory at Swindon, Wiltshire, to turn out both makes of car.

Component makers are following in the wake of the car makers. Koyo Seiko, the Japanese ball bearing maker, which is the third largest in the world, is planning the start of production next year at its first European manufacturing centre, at Barnsley, West Yorkshire. Koyo is a big supplier of automotive bearings, and the new £50 million facility will be about half-way between the Nissan and Toyota factories.

Japanese property investment in Britain has also been growing. Jones Lang Wootton, the chartered surveyors and property consultants, say it accounted for more than 40 per cent of property investment in the City of London last year.

FOCUS

JAPAN/4

Anarchy in the theatre

Theatre in Japan is returning to the masses. It is lavish, performed at break-neck speed and ridiculously funny

One of the most popular productions in Tokyo last Christmas was *The Great General's War - Noda Version*, performed by the Yume no Yuminsha company and directed by Hideki Noda, also writer and chief actor (Leslie Downer writes).

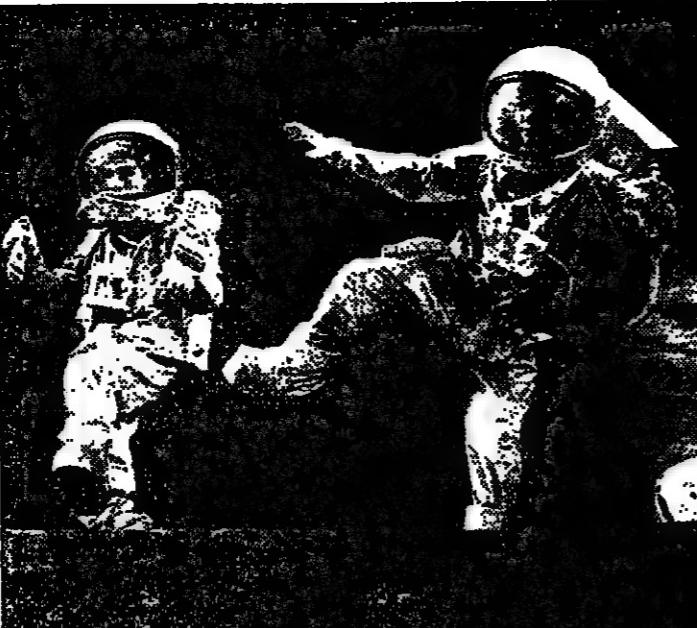
It is a magnificent, bewildering, madcap spectacle, with a plot which defies résumé, encompassing elements of myth and fairytale — the beginning of the world, the legendary birth of Japan, good queens, bad queens, babies exchanged at birth, mistaken identities — and a dialogue which seems to consist of puns, obscure references and manic jokes, all delivered at such breakneck speed that even Japanese speakers are hard put to catch it all.

The title is a reference to the 14-hour Kabuki play, *The Great General's War*. But aficionados of the original might have difficulty recognizing it, and the production is for a generation altogether different from the Kabuki audiences — the comic-book generation, which picks up culture magpie fashion, hopping from one television channel to another.

Noda and Katsuhiko Hibino, the set designer, are part of this generation, and part of a movement which is producing an anarchic contemporary culture in Japan, characterized by lightness, immediacy and humour.

Hibino is a graphic artist with superstar status. His set is all wild swirls of paint and colour, and the action takes place at fever pitch — endless wild antics, acrobatics and visual jokes; one famous Kabuki character, for example, who always wears a necklace of pompons, appears here decked out in toilet rolls.

Despite the odd take-off of classic Kabuki scenes and the actors' propensity to strike mock Kabuki poses, the play is long way from traditional Japanese theatre. The name of the company, Yume no Yuminsha, means something like "The Dreaming Idlers", and Noda says he gets some of his best ideas while asleep.



Outrageous: Yume no Yuminsha in Edinburgh in 1987

Apart from that, the name is hardly apposite. Noda insists that his troupe work out several hours every day, practising aerobics, dance, acrobatics and meditation.

Hibino does not work for galleries, the preserve of the old and wealthy. Instead his work appears in theatres, magazines, advertisements, discs, even on the sides of buses, where it can be seen by the masses.

The demand for accessibility has also infected the traditional Kabuki theatre. The leader of the rebellion is the Kabuki master, Ennosuke Ichikawa. Kabuki originated as entertainment for the masses, as opposed to the grand Noh theatre, the preserve of the samurai. But gradually the intelligentsia took over; traditions stultified and audiences declined.

Ennosuke has revived many of the elements of original Kabuki: a good story line, plenty of action, humour, spectacle and, above all, stunts. His speciality is flying. His audiences come not to wallow in pathos or to be roused by some stirring moment in Japanese history, but to cheer his dazzling transformations of role and costume, and his split-second acrobatics — and above all to see him rise gracefully above the stage and soar off to the gods.

Early Ennosuke consisted of Kabuki plays embellished and enlivened. One memorable scene involved a *seppuku* (ritual suicide), a waterfall, and hundreds of gallons of water which turned red while the hero declared his (extremely lengthy) death speech; another was Ennosuke's transformation from samurai to magic flying fox, which then takes off into the auditorium.

Recently he has been moving further from the Kabuki traditions. First came Super Kabuki and *Yamato Takeru*, the story of Japan's legendary hero and his doomed quest to subdue a rebellious mountain god.

The story may sound like standard Kabuki fare, but Ennosuke's production was pure spectacle, outrageously lavish, with costumes by Issey Miyake, a leading fashion designer, amplified background music instead of the traditional plucking of the shamisen, and a finale which brought the audience to its feet as Ennosuke, as the prince, took off like a bird.

Ennosuke's productions are far more decorous than Noda's, though his most recent venture rather shocked the Kabuki establishment — a joint venture with the Peking Opera. *The Dragon King*, with Ennosuke declaiming Chinese dialogue and the Chinese actors striking melodramatic Kabuki poses.

Ennosuke's performances are far more decorous than Noda's, though his most recent venture rather shocked the Kabuki establishment — a joint venture with the Peking Opera. *The Dragon King*, with Ennosuke declaiming Chinese dialogue and the Chinese actors striking melodramatic Kabuki poses.

Ennosuke will perform at the Edinburgh Festival this year. Ennosuke Ichikawa, who had full houses at Sadler's Wells in 1987, will return to Britain in 1991.

Leslie Downer looks at how myths and pottery have moulded the history of Kyushu island

Kyushu — Japan's southern island — is where the story of Japan begins. A few millennia ago, when the sun goddess sent her grandson, Ninigi, down to rule the newly created Japanese islands, Mount Takachiho, in central Kyushu, was where he chose to descend.

These days Kyushu has a second reputation: as "Silicon Island", home to almost 50 per cent of Japan's hi-tech industry. The city of Fukuoka, where most visits to Kyushu begin, has considerably more of the hi-tech about it than the mythical.

Six hours from Tokyo on the new, improved Bullet Train (which features a double-decker restaurant car, where one sits as if on a magic carpet, sipping coffee and watching the landscape skim by below), it is far enough away to have developed into a cultural centre in its own right, rather than simply a satellite of Tokyo.

Fukuoka is full of sleek, streamlined buildings such as the IMS Building, which is gleaming and gold-plated, or Il Palazzo, designed by Aldo Rossi, the Italian architect, and hidden, for some reason, in an obscure suburb of the city. At night the streets are brilliant with neon, and well-dressed crowds wander from one tiny bar to another.

But once out of the city, the magic of rural Japan begins to reassert itself. Saga, the prefecture south-west of Fukuoka, is a peaceful land of craggy wooded hills and plains checkered with paddy fields, in November a patchwork of variegated brown squares; and it is the setting of the Ureshino hot springs, which rise in the hills west of Saga and are famous for their curative powers.

It is the home of three of Japan's most important pottery towns, Karatsu, Imari and Arita. Kyushu is the part of Japan closest to Korea and over the centuries it has served as a door through which a stream of people and ideas has travelled from the Asian continent to Japan. Many scholars believe that the Japanese people originated in Korea and migrated to Japan through Kyushu; which perhaps explains why Ninigi, in the myth, descended there.

Certainly, it is no coincidence that some of Japan's finest pottery is produced in Kyushu. The Japanese have always admired the strong lines and simple shapes of Korean pottery. Over the centuries many Korean potters were captured and forced to settle here under duress, particularly during the notorious Pottery Wars of the 16th century.

Karatsu, on the coast near Fukuoka, was once a great trading port, where ships departed for China and Korea and returned laden with precious pots and sometimes potters. Nowadays it is a sleepy town and fairly undistinguished; but of the three wares, Karatsu is my favourite — fat, satisfying, chunky stoneware, glazed with local ashes in subtle tones of grey and brown, very similar, in fact, to Korean stoneware.

The ware produced in Imari and Arita, south of Karatsu, is completely different: the finest porcelain, milky white, painted with intricate designs in brilliant colours.

Arita is the less picturesque of the two, a sprawling town, bristling with chimneys, entirely given over to pottery production. But the village of Imari looks everything that a pottery village should — a straggle of whitewashed half-timbered houses, disappearing into the trees at the foot of towering crags, with the occasional chimney visible among the vegetable fields. A single road climbs through the village, lined with small pottery shops.

For the captive Korean potters who once lived here, on the other hand, this little village, miles from anywhere, hemmed in by hills, must have seemed more like a prison.

Until recently, visitors came to Saga for the pottery. But early last year the quiet province became the scene of great excitement. Ever since, visitors have been arriving by the busload to tramp around an obscure undulating site in the middle of the Saga plain.

Written records in Japan begin inexplicably late, in the eighth century. But long before that, in the third century, Chinese travellers were writing of a kingdom called Yamataikoku and of its queen, Himiko. She was a shamaness and magician, and

lived in a heavily guarded palace. Of her thousand attendants and slaves, only one was a man. When she died, a huge burial mound was built for her and more than 100 slaves were killed and buried with her.

For years scholars have argued over the exact location of Yamataikoku or whether it existed at all. Then, in 1988, archaeologists began to excavate a hillock in the Saga plain, and uncovered traces of a city. Buried in the hillock they found urns with human skeletons buried inside, swords, necklaces and fragments of pottery; and visitors can see the finds in a small museum, as well as touring the site.

It cannot be said for certain that this was Yamataikoku, but if it was, it would imply strong ties between early Japan and the Asian mainland, and would reaffirm the old legend that Kyushu was indeed the birthplace of Japan.



Porcelain in the making: Arita is known for its delicate stoneware painted in brilliant colours

The birthplace of a nation and its art

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My sixth visit to Japan this summer is a happy prospect, especially because I will be with the London Symphony Orchestra. Remember the intense listening of Japanese music lovers at my last concerts there in 1985, above all the Mahler 9th in Tokyo and my own Kaddish Symphony in Hiroshima, gives me a pleasant anticipation.

This year has another special significance for me: 1990 is the fiftieth year since the founding of Sergey Koussevitzky's school at Tanglewood, where I myself was a student and where I first conducted. As my own salute to my beloved teacher, I am honoured to join in opening the first Pacific Music Festival with Michael Tilson Thomas, the LSO and the young musicians from many countries who will form the Festival Orchestra.

My dear Koussevitzky would be thrilled that the youthful dream he realised in the hills of Massachusetts, has also inspired a "pacific" music centre in the greenery of Sapporo. Congratulations to the enlightened people of Nomura who enable this new artistic dream to become real.

Leonard Bernstein



It is a great pleasure for me to return to Japan so soon after my exciting 1988 visit, together with the London Symphony Orchestra and their President, Leonard Bernstein — my dear and longtime personal friend.

We both share our devotion to young musicians — players and conductors — and to young audiences.

I can remember how my life changed when I won the Koussevitzky Conducting Award in 1968 and studied at Tanglewood under world-class conductor-teachers.

I am therefore delighted to join Leonard Bernstein and the London Symphony Orchestra here in Japan to be part of its new Pacific Music Festival.

What a wonderful opportunity for all of us!

Michael Tilson Thomas

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INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

Down to business

Britain's independent schools are being persuaded to drop their traditional prejudice against industry in an attempt to overcome the chronic shortage of graduates willing to enter the business world.

A conference in Birmingham at the weekend launched a new initiative to bring industry and the public schools closer together for the benefit of both pupils and the British economy.

More than 150 delegates were urged to form local groups to work with industry to bring commercial understanding into the curriculum and to offer pupils a taste of the world of work.

The gathering was convened by the Schools Industry Liaison Committee (SILC), which was formed three years ago at Bedford in response to what many independent school heads saw as the failure of Industry Year to touch the private sector.

Tim Allerton, headmaster of the lower school at Bedford School, and vice-chairman of SILC, said: "It became plain after Industry Year in 1986 that independent schools were not linked to the world of business-creation."

While state schools have forged steadily closer links with industry since the 1970s, their independent counterparts have remained largely insular, turning to the world of commerce only to seek sponsorship for specific school projects.

The idea of allowing business people to influence the curriculum was, and in many cases still is, anathema to public schools.

Mr Allerton says: "A typical head

Public schools are being challenged to drop an old prejudice,
Douglas Broom writes

of classics in a school is likely to be very insular and quite unable to understand why anybody would want to go into industry. It is hard to convince him that industry and commerce are not just places for people who cannot get into university."

The founders of SILC staged a major conference in Bedford in 1987 and invited John Banham, director of the CBI, as guest speaker. Within months, 28 independent schools had signed up for the scheme.

The schools, by forming local groups, were able to set up regular links with local businesses to stage events to promote industrial understanding among pupils and arrange work placements to give teenagers a taste of working life.

Among the events SILC has arranged has been a project sponsored by Unilever in which pupils had to design a margarine factory in Africa.

Meanwhile, Martin Rogers has pioneered a parallel scheme at Malvern College, Hereford & Worcester, where he appointed the first public school "industrial fellow" in 1980.

Mr Rogers, now chief master of King Edward's School, Birmingham, says: "I realized very quickly that the one thing we

needed in order to establish good links with industry was time — the very thing most schools did not have.

"You would find that a teacher was asked by the head to 'do this industry thing'. But they would be teaching 28 periods of history a week and running the junior hockey team so they would not have time to do it properly."

Today, a dozen independent schools have industrial fellows, most of them sponsored by industry. At Malvern, Mr Rogers appointed his first industrial fellow with financial help from a Worcester engineering firm. The Birmingham industrial fellowship is sponsored by Barclays Bank.

Vaughan Ward-Hill is an industrial fellow at Rugby School, Warwickshire, although he prefers the title business liaison officer. Since his appointment three years ago, he has introduced work experience for all fifth-form pupils, a startling innovation at one of the country's leading public schools, although the practice is commonplace in the state sector.

Mr Ward-Hill, a former KCI executive, offers his teenage clients placements in a range of industries, from engineering to computing. He is adamant that the quality of work placement offered must be high.

"Industry has to realize that these young people are going to be the kind of well-qualified graduates they are seeking," he explains. "It is no use boring them to death, then complaining that the well-educated are prejudiced against industry."

"I think many of the firms we deal with realize that this is their



A threat to the family holiday

More school fee rises are on the way

Hard-pressed parents struggling to keep up with increases in independent school fees face another rise this autumn. Despite a record increase of 11.7 per cent in the year to January, fees are likely to rise on a similar scale in the next academic year, say head teachers and bursars (Douglas Broom writes).

They blame teachers' pay rises, which in the last 12 months have added 9.1 per cent to the pay bill of private schools.

Although independent schools are not obliged to follow state-school rates, they ignore them at their peril.

Most independent school teachers are paid more than their state school colleagues, partly to ensure that the private sector can recruit the pick of the bunch.

School fee inflation has been running well ahead of the retail prices index for most of the past decade and has outstripped average earnings for the past five years.

The 1990 annual census conducted by the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) showed that schools also claimed that the increased fees were being used to fund new buildings and equipment.

In the past 12 months, average spending per pupil on buildings and equipment rose

by 44 per cent to £546 a head. The total bill came to £254.6 million, an increase of £79.5 million on the previous year.

While independent schools are not obliged to follow the National Curriculum, most will, and are already investing in new classrooms and equipment to cope with the more practical syllabus.

The necessity for such investment is being questioned. One public school observer said: "It is almost reaching the point of overfunding."

Despite the fee increases, independent schools managed to increase their "market share" to 7.3 per cent.

This has largely been achieved by recruiting "first-time buyers", children where neither parent went to an independent school. Research by ISIS shows that two fifths of children at private schools fit this category.

These are the people on whom the burden of fee increases will fall most heavily. They may be willing to pay more for better staffing and facilities, but the price may become too high.

For the majority, the most likely casualty will be the family holiday or perhaps the new car. If the predictions are right, the outlook for 1991 is just as gloomy.

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

Continued on next page

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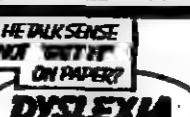
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Continued from page 19

EDUCATIONAL

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**CHARLES STURT
UNIVERSITY
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SENIOR EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Charles Sturt University (CSU) was incorporated on 1 July, 1989. It is a federated network of three members in New South Wales: CSU-Murray at Albury (formerly the Murray Campus of the Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education); CSU-Mitchell at Bathurst (formerly the Mitchell College of Advanced Education); and CSU-Riverina at Wagga Wagga (formerly the Riverina Campus of the Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education) with approximately 12,700 students. L1,500 staff income of £562m in 1990. The University will be Australia's largest Distance Education Centre.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the following senior appointments:

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL CSU-RIVERINA (WAGGA WAGGA)

CSU-Riverina is located at Wagga Wagga, the largest inland city in New South Wales with a population of 50,000 people, 450km south-west of Sydney. As one of the major members of the University it is a multi-disciplinary institution with about 7,300 students, 650 staff and an operating budget of £53m.

The position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal of CSU-Riverina will soon be vacant following the appointment of Dr. C.D. Blake, AM as Foundation Vice-Chancellor of Charles Sturt University.

The appointee will be responsible through the Vice-Chancellor to the Board of Governors for the planning, development and management of CSU-Riverina, and may, in addition be assigned some university wide responsibilities.

The successful applicant will have a distinguished academic record and will have exhibited high levels of interpersonal skills and a record of effective leadership and management performance.

A remuneration package, with a base salary of £55,738 per annum, will be negotiated with the successful applicant who will be offered employment for not less than 5 years nor more than 10 years in the first instance.

PRINCIPAL CSU-MURRAY (ALBURY)

CSU-Murray is located at Albury on the NSW/Victoria border. The Region has a population of 80,000 people and is one of Australia's major growth centres. CSU-Murray is a developing member of the University which currently has approximately 1,100 students and 80 staff.

The successful applicant will be responsible through the Vice-Chancellor to the Board of Governors, for the planning, development and management of CSU-Murray, and may, in addition be assigned some university wide responsibilities.

While it is expected that the appointee would have relevant academic and professional qualifications, the University is primarily concerned to appoint a person who has demonstrated, in an academic or related environment, outstanding leadership and administrative abilities relevant to the needs of a developing academic institution.

A remuneration package, with a base salary of £57,363 per annum, will be negotiated with the successful applicant who will be offered employment for not less than 5 years nor more than 10 years in the first instance.

Inquiries for both positions may be directed to Dr. C. D. Blake, AM, Vice-Chancellor Designate on (069) 22 2221, or Mr. R. Shaw on (069) 22 2380 (Facsimile No. 00161 - 69222639).

Applications Close Wednesday, 30 May, 1990. It is anticipated interviews for the designated positions will be scheduled in June.

Applications should be submitted to the Vice-Chancellor, The Chancellor, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, NSW, 2795, Australia from whom further information may be obtained. Applicants are requested to include a fax number in their curriculum vitae and the names and addresses and fax numbers of three referees.

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TENNIS

Navratilova suffers crushing defeat as Seles storms to title

From Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent, Rome

AS BILLIE Jean King so aptly put it, the final of the Italian Open was between a legend and a future legend. Yesterday might have been the moment the two paths crossed. Monica Seles, aged 16, gave Martina Navratilova, aged 33, one of the severest beatings of her life to win 6-1, 6-1 in 53 unexpected one-sided minutes.

It was Seles's first win against Navratilova in four matches. For once, the embarrassment can be captured by statistics: Navratilova won just 24 points in the match, only 15 on her own serve.

Yet even after this defeat, it would be premature to write her off. Navratilova has never enjoyed playing on clay, despite winning the French Open twice, and has been slowed all week by a hamstring injury, but so complete was her collapse against the No. 2 seed that she must question whether she has the mental and physical stamina to fulfil her dream of winning Wimbledon one last time.

Typically, Navratilova re-

fused to be ruffled by a defeat which, long before the final point, had bordered on humiliation and put the emotions of the Roman crowd through the mangle. Instead, she preferred to dwell on her hard-fought victory against Sabatini in the semi-final.

"That was why I came here — to play under pressure and to win. Despite losing today, I know what I have to do before Wimbledon and I have no doubt physically, mentally and emotionally I can win there," she said. When the eight-times Wimbledon champion says that, it is wise to listen.

Thereafter, as Seles took the first set and the opening game of the second, the ageing warrior won just three out of 23 points.

Too much had been taken out of her on the previous evening against Sabatini, and as forehands and backhands flew everywhere but in court and the mood of the crowd changed from anticipation, through desperation to sympathy, it was as if Navratilova had stored up all the errors of her brilliant career for one 53-minute extravaganza. Even when she resorted to the basics of serve and volley, the geometry had gone.

The only problem for Seles, apart from her own tiredness, was fear. At 5-1 in the second set, she thought of Zina Garrison, who had been in a similar position against Navratilova and lost. "My hands were shaking, but I won the first two points and that helped me to calm down," she said. "I wasn't playing as well as I can do, but Martina made a lot of errors."

Seles, in contrast, must now have lost all fear. Last year she beat Chris Evert, now she has easily beaten the last of the old guard, winning her fourth title in a row and her 21st successive match in the process. "This win came at a great time. I think we were both a little tired, but this is a big breakthrough," she said. Now only Steffi Graf is left for the Yugoslav teenager, who will

be aiming for the No. 1 spot in the world and unseeded, surprised

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JUDO

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Quality of Wright, the FA Cup final revelation, poses dilemma for Bobby Robson in his quest for goalscorers

Blacks thrive where Anglo-Saxons left off

ON A colourful afternoon at Wembley, memorable for six goals and a hundred errors and a too tolerant referee from Sussex, the more skilful players predominantly were... black.

As the level of ability coming out of our schools - there no longer being than traditional English pit-head seam of talent - continues to decline in the face of alternative activities, it is the black community which more and more will maintain the international prestige of the original home of football.

Looking in at Saturday's match, João Havelange, the president of FIFA, might at times have sup-



**David
Miller**

posed he was at home in Rio. The intriguing question is whether Bobby Robson should include Ian Wright, the revelation of the FA Cup final, in his squad for Italy. England are short enough of goalscorers, and the two with which Wright so nearly gave Crystal Palace a spectacular victory were as good as anything I have seen anywhere this season.

On the one hand, I doubt if Robson has the courage to do something so innovative on so little evidence. On the other, his persistently changing formations and selections would give Wright no less chance of succeeding instantly, in an unstable team, than they do Ball from the second division, who has come under serious consideration.

Whether or not the England manager even considers such a possibility available to him, the fact is that players like Wright and Salako, once (who became a decisive figure as Palace's legs suddenly began to fold in the

second half of extra time) and Wallace, give the domestic game a quality that would otherwise be missing, and the standard is doubtful enough as it is.

Saturday's splendidly entertaining match illustrated to the watching billions around the world that the old country still has an almost unmatched hunger and mood for the game but that it is short on the former Anglo-Saxon techniques of Charlton and Peters, never mind of Matthews, Carter, Mannion and Finney.

For much of the first hour, while these two average teams were still physically strong and aggressively challenging - under the referee's

often apparently blind eye - the ball was too often 30 feet in the air and opened opponents flat on the floor.

Palace's 1-3-5-1 formation, gaining an extra forward only when Wright belatedly replaced Barber with 20 minutes to go, so dramatically to save and nearly win the match, reduced Manchester United's multi-million-pound assembly to a pile of random unrelated parts.

It was only when fatigue started to undermine Palace's man-for-man marking, Shaw and Pardew on Webb and Robson having been especially effective, that Palace's control of long

phases of the match began to disappear. I see no reason why Palace should doubt their ability to be equally effective in the replay and United equally worried. Palace's performance was not a one-day wonder but confirmation of their ordinary, competent organization under Steve Coppell, a characteristic so often absent this season in United: including, at times, Saturday.

Alex Ferguson's anxiety will be no less, I fancy, on Thursday night than it was when he saw his team twice behind and rescued by the sure foot of Hughes.

If Bobby Robson was wanting to know whether Webb is ready for

Italy, the answer is unresolved; or, if anything, negative. The touch and the eye were there, making the replay-earning goal, but his movement throughout was pedestrian and he would be left groping at international level.

We should, however, be grateful for this vibrant afternoon in a national showpiece, and at the very least hope that it put 10 members of the International Olympic Committee in a good mood when they went yesterday to Manchester to consider whether Britain is capable of staging with style, efficiency and safety the biggest show on earth.

Method matches ragged inspiration

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Manchester United..... 3
Crystal Palace..... 3

A REVEALING cameo was painted at 4.45pm at Wembley on Saturday. Featuring the respective managers, Alex Ferguson and Steve Coppell, it illustrated graphically their own contrasting attitudes and those of their sides, who ultimately matched each other in a fluctuating FA Cup final of high drama and low quality.

As normal time came to an end, Ferguson strolled amid his exhausted Manchester United players and offered the odd word here and there. Although he was as animated as a jumping bean when on the bench, there was now no apparent urgency in his mission, no visible sign of instruction or advice.

Coppell strode on, gathered his tired Crystal Palace pupils around him and spoke to them as though he was a schoolmaster conducting a refresher course. Having scribbled copiously in a notebook throughout the first half, he could be seen gesturing as though he was drawing patterns on an imaginary blackboard.

As throughout the season, Ferguson was prepared to allow his more talented representatives to extemporize. Instead of following a recognizable script, United merely prompted each other as they went along. When it works, as it did particularly before the interval, the product is naturally beautiful. When it does not, as in the opening half hour, it resembles an untidy mess.

Coppell cannot afford such luxuriant liberties. To mount a realistic challenge, his comparatively limited side had to be organized along more disciplined and regimented lines. Each member of his cast had not only to know his part but also to play it, as against Liverpool in the semi-final.

Palace were assigned specific duties in midfield. Shaw, Pardew to shadow Webb, Barber to inhibit Ince and Salako to stay with McClair. The quartet adhered rigidly to their tasks and not until concentration was frayed by fatigue were Coppell's rules inadvertently relaxed.

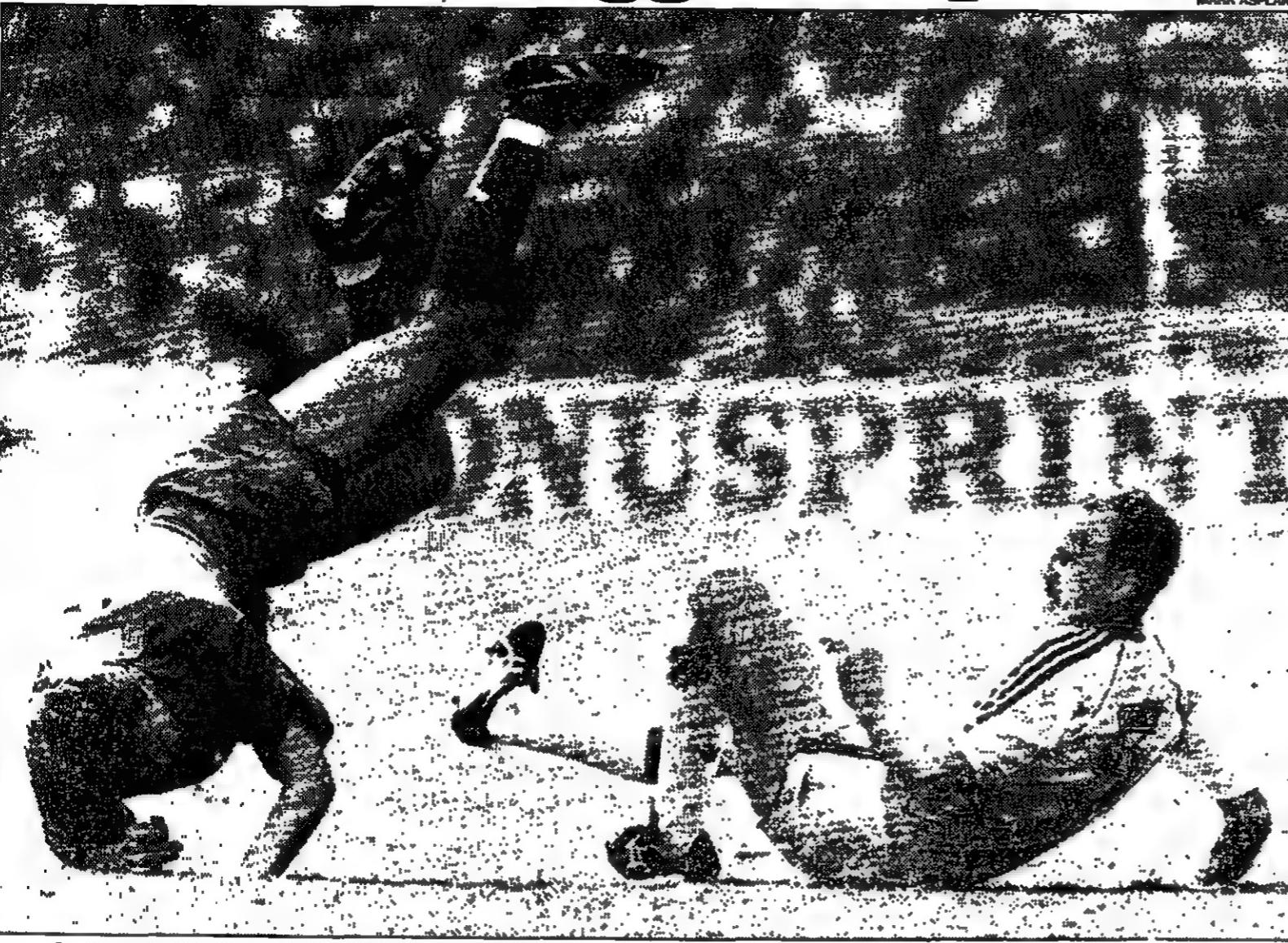
Take set pieces as another example. United evidently had no predetermined plans for throw-ins and especially corners (Wallace generally took them at the start, Webb towards the end). It was as though they had never bothered in practice to perfect an art which can be so decisive.

Palace went through a deliberate free-kick routine. Gray, usually finding indecision on each occasion before striking quickly and unexpectedly, United, having been caught off guard the first time, were undone by the third, which Hughes put United ahead with a typically spectacular drive after the hour, then provoked Thorn to clear off the line and, after Robson had headed against a post, indulged in an outrageous over-head kick. Eventually, released delightfully by Wallace, he equalized with only seven minutes to go.

But for his feats, Wright would have claimed a prominent place in the annals of "the venue of legends", as Wembley is officially now known. His opening contribution would have been remarkable even if he had not fractured a leg six weeks ago.

Drifting away from Phelan, he accelerated inside Pallister and threaded the ball precisely underneath Leighton for his first goal this year. A couple of minutes after Coppell's lecture was over, he added another in extra time with a flourish from Salako's floated cross. Robson rather than Hughes did so, off the body of Pemberton.

United were then at their most fluent and McClair in particular should have emphasized their momentary superiority. The rest of the final belonged principally to two figures of inspiration, Hughes treated leniently by O'Reilly, and Wright, running explosively on recently healed legs, in turn lifted their colleagues towards potential glory.



Thrills and spills: Barber (left) and Phelan engage in balletic acrobatics in an otherwise unskilled but exciting FA Cup final on Saturday

with a typically spectacular drive after the hour, then provoked Thorn to clear off the line and, after Robson had headed against a post, indulged in an outrageous over-head kick. Eventually, released delightfully by Wallace, he equalized with only seven minutes to go.

Should Wright be selected in the starting line-up for the replay on Thursday? If so, Coppell will inevitably leave a loose thread in his meticulous protective design. If not, Palace will be without the forward whose pace reinforced an attack, carried otherwise by the lonely Bright, and transformed it into a dangerous threat.

Coppell explained that he took the more cautious route on Saturday because Wright was not yet fully fit. He is tempted to be more adventurous but he fears that his most potent weapon may prematurely be defused and he has no others in his armoury.

Ferguson, relieved to be given another opportunity, will doubtless make no changes if Pallister is available. He will once more trust that his motley crew can find a few of the necessary cohesive thoughts and that his captain will step into a more convincing leading role.

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TEAMS AND FINAL FACTS

MANCHESTER UNITED: J. Leighton; S. Bruce, M. Phelan, G. Pallister (sub: M. Hughes), N. Webb, P. McClair, M. Hughes, D. Wallace.

CRYSTAL PALACE: N. Murphy; S. Pemberton, R. Shaw, A. Gray (sub: D. Macdonald, G. R. Taylor, A. Thom, P. Barber); J. Ince, C. Salako, A. Thomas, M. Bright, J. Hughes, A. Gillen.

• The FA Cup semi-finals and final have produced goals scored by 18 different players. Evans is a record.

• Ian Wright, of Crystal Palace, was only the third substitute to have scored twice in an FA Cup final. The previous occasions were last season when both Ian Rush, of Liverpool, and Stuart McCall, of Everton, did so.

• Playing a surprise late in the match, United won the FA Cup, booking a place in the final.

• William Hill have shortened their odds from 4-7 to 6-5 to win the Cup. Palace are 10-11, United 12-5, Chelsea 10-1, United 2-1 the draw 12-5 Palace.

• The Wembley attendance of 80,000 probably represents the record for a FA Cup final.

• A total of 90,000 crabs, 50,000 sandwiches and pizzas, 15,000 bags of crisps, 3,500 hot meals in hospitality suites, 45,000 programmes and flags and 100,000 programme were sold on the day.

presented his manager with an awkward problem.

Leighton was at fault then and arguably later, when Wright made a belated and extraordinary impact. Although Martyn could scarcely be blamed, Palace contributed to the overall theme of defensive deficiencies before the interval. They left two opponents free to convert McClair's cross. Robson rather than Hughes did so, off the body of Pemberton.

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IAN Wright remains philosophical about his chances of starting Thursday's FA Cup final replay. "It's not my decision. I am fit enough, but it's up to the boss if he starts me," the Crystal Palace forward said.

"It's up to him. He knows what I can do. He said I could win it for him on Saturday, and that's what I tried to do."

Wright, who has twice broken his leg this season, "caused havoc" when he came on, in the words of the Palace manager, Steve Coppell. And Coppell believes Wright could one day do the same for England.

"Bobby Robson should use him as a 20-minute super-sub," Coppell said. "He has ability that no one in the first division has. He can be as good as we want to be. I can't make him an England player, but he can do it for himself."

Coppell said he had never thought Wright would be fit enough to start on Saturday, although he later believed that it was a last-minute decision, and he may feel the same way about the replay.

"That was why Ian was substituted," Coppell said. "Some people said he should have stayed from the start. But I always feel that if you're not 100 per cent fit and you start with everyone else when they are 100 per cent fit, then you are at a disadvantage."

"Ian came on and did the

perfect job. He scored a superb goal and caused a lot of havoc. I knew what he could do, but if he had started the game he would have wanted. Coming on fresh like that helped him make such an impact."

Wright, though, knows his job is not yet complete. "We haven't done anything yet. We've got all to do on Thursday," he said.

Wright became the third substitute in two years to play a crucial part in a Cup Final.

Last year, Stuart McCall, of

Everton, and Ian Rush, of Liverpool, both scored after coming on as substitutes.

Coppell, meanwhile, has no worries about lifting Crystal Palace for Thursday's replay. "I don't need to lift them. They're OK," he said. "There's no problem. It's another game."

The Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson, is equally confident about his side's chances. "If we keep playing our football and creating chances like we did on Saturday, we must have a chance," he said.

The replay could be the first to be decided by penalties if both sides are level after extra time.

Ferguson was horrified by the prospect, especially after hearing how his old club, Aberdeen, beat Celtic 9-8 on penalties in Saturday's Scottish Cup final. "That's a ridiculous way to decide a match," he said.

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"Ian came on and did the

perfect job. He scored a superb

goal and caused a lot of havoc. I knew what he could do, but if he had started the game he would have wanted. Coming on fresh like that helped him make such an impact."

Wright, though, knows his job is not yet complete. "We haven't done anything yet. We've got all to do on Thursday," he said.

Wright became the third substitute in two years to play a crucial part in a Cup Final.

Last year, Stuart McCall, of

Everton, and Ian Rush, of Liverpool, both scored after coming on as substitutes.

Coppell, meanwhile, has no worries about lifting Crystal Palace for Thursday's replay. "I don't need to lift them. They're OK," he said. "There's no problem. It's another game."

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Cream of football on display at Ewood Park but boot goes in at Roker Park during the opening first division play-offs

One step nearer for Swindon

By Clive White

Blackburn Rovers.....1
Swindon Town.....2

THE first division may, sadly, have been deprived the benefit of Oldham Athletic's presence next season but there was still hope at Ewood Park yesterday that some of the second division cream will rise to the top.

Swindon Town, mirroring the ideals of Ossie Ardiles, their manager, have, home and away, this season, produced attacking football that deserves first division exposure. If they can sustain the same spirit of adventure that they displayed against Blackburn Rovers in the first leg of the semi-final play-offs for just two more games then their ambition and that of not a few neutrals may be realized.

What an achievement that would be in a season when matters off the field seemed to have done their best to undermine Swindon's challenge on it. More than that, Ardiles has in one year, following last season's failure in the play-offs, transformed the West Country team from long-ball sluggers into stylish exponents of the noble art of football. Should they hold on to their advantage against Blackburn in the second leg on Wednesday, they will surely grace Wembley in the final of the play-offs on May 28 just as Oldham did in the Littlewoods Cup final.

Like Swindon, this was Blackburn's third appearance in the play-offs and again it seems destined to end in tears. It was not until two goals down that they played with any passion, though that may have had something to do with the belated arrival of Kennedy in the 61st minute for Stapleton.

Kennedy, fresh and pacy, brought renewed hope to Blackburn's biggest crowd of the season. Within four minutes of his arrival he had reminded us of what a good goalkeeper Digby is when the



Come on, you stripes: Scott, Newcastle defender, centre, trying to head off a ball pursued by Owers, of Sunderland

Swindon player made a brilliant reflex save to his twisting header. Just three minutes further on he almost won a penalty when Gittens brought him down with a mistimed tackle and then in the 73 minute he pounced on a mistake by MacLaren to halve Blackburn's problems.

But Swindon held on without any great cause for concern, like a boxer who knows that he has built up a suf-

ficiently big advantage in the early rounds.

Swindon had taken the lead after a quiet, opening half-hour through White whose two goals two seasons ago helped Swindon defeat Gillingham in the third division play-offs. His 26th goal of the season owed not so much to his opportunism as his greed. Kerslake, emerging from a ruck of players with the ball, crossed to McLaughlin into his own net. Something

but White nipped in to dispossess his teammate and score with a shot on the turn.

Blackburn were woebegone again at the start of the second half when any number of instances might have led to a second goal. White almost scored with a cheeky back heel and was only denied again by Genoese's outstretched leg. Then Dawson almost deflected a corner from Jones into his own net. Something

had to give and in the 55th minute it did so when a corner was cleared, safely it seemed beyond the penalty area, to Foley to volley it back from some 25 yards past Genoese.

BLACKBURN Rovers: T Gittens; M Jones, J Kennedy, S Folley, D Stapleton, N Dyer, C White, J Gittens, S Dawson, P Owers, J Scott, A Cawthon, R Liddle, S Gittens, S. I. Yaco (loan), 1.2.1943, 10, R Tesselaar (meth), 2.2.1951, Wimberley, 1, R Kerslake, 1, 1.2.1951, S. J. Jones, 1.2.1952, D Prusznik (Pol), 2.04, 1.10, 5, R Panovska (Bulg), 2.21, 1.2.1952, D. Karsikas (Pol), 1.7.1952, 1.2.1953, 1.2.1954, 1.2.1955, 1.2.1956, 1.2.1957, 1.2.1958, 1.2.1959, 1.2.1960, 1.2.1961, 1.2.1962, 1.2.1963, 1.2.1964, 1.2.1965, 1.2.1966, 1.2.1967, 1.2.1968, 1.2.1969, 1.2.1970, 1.2.1971, 1.2.1972, 1.2.1973, 1.2.1974, 1.2.1975, 1.2.1976, 1.2.1977, 1.2.1978, 1.2.1979, 1.2.1980, 1.2.1981, 1.2.1982, 1.2.1983, 1.2.1984, 1.2.1985, 1.2.1986, 1.2.1987, 1.2.1988, 1.2.1989, 1.2.1990, 1.2.1991, 1.2.1992, 1.2.1993, 1.2.1994, 1.2.1995, 1.2.1996, 1.2.1997, 1.2.1998, 1.2.1999, 1.2.2000, 1.2.2001, 1.2.2002, 1.2.2003, 1.2.2004, 1.2.2005, 1.2.2006, 1.2.2007, 1.2.2008, 1.2.2009, 1.2.2010, 1.2.2011, 1.2.2012, 1.2.2013, 1.2.2014, 1.2.2015, 1.2.2016, 1.2.2017, 1.2.2018, 1.2.2019, 1.2.2020, 1.2.2021, 1.2.2022, 1.2.2023, 1.2.2024, 1.2.2025, 1.2.2026, 1.2.2027, 1.2.2028, 1.2.2029, 1.2.2030, 1.2.2031, 1.2.2032, 1.2.2033, 1.2.2034, 1.2.2035, 1.2.2036, 1.2.2037, 1.2.2038, 1.2.2039, 1.2.2040, 1.2.2041, 1.2.2042, 1.2.2043, 1.2.2044, 1.2.2045, 1.2.2046, 1.2.2047, 1.2.2048, 1.2.2049, 1.2.2050, 1.2.2051, 1.2.2052, 1.2.2053, 1.2.2054, 1.2.2055, 1.2.2056, 1.2.2057, 1.2.2058, 1.2.2059, 1.2.2060, 1.2.2061, 1.2.2062, 1.2.2063, 1.2.2064, 1.2.2065, 1.2.2066, 1.2.2067, 1.2.2068, 1.2.2069, 1.2.2070, 1.2.2071, 1.2.2072, 1.2.2073, 1.2.2074, 1.2.2075, 1.2.2076, 1.2.2077, 1.2.2078, 1.2.2079, 1.2.2080, 1.2.2081, 1.2.2082, 1.2.2083, 1.2.2084, 1.2.2085, 1.2.2086, 1.2.2087, 1.2.2088, 1.2.2089, 1.2.2090, 1.2.2091, 1.2.2092, 1.2.2093, 1.2.2094, 1.2.2095, 1.2.2096, 1.2.2097, 1.2.2098, 1.2.2099, 1.2.2100, 1.2.2101, 1.2.2102, 1.2.2103, 1.2.2104, 1.2.2105, 1.2.2106, 1.2.2107, 1.2.2108, 1.2.2109, 1.2.2110, 1.2.2111, 1.2.2112, 1.2.2113, 1.2.2114, 1.2.2115, 1.2.2116, 1.2.2117, 1.2.2118, 1.2.2119, 1.2.2120, 1.2.2121, 1.2.2122, 1.2.2123, 1.2.2124, 1.2.2125, 1.2.2126, 1.2.2127, 1.2.2128, 1.2.2129, 1.2.2130, 1.2.2131, 1.2.2132, 1.2.2133, 1.2.2134, 1.2.2135, 1.2.2136, 1.2.2137, 1.2.2138, 1.2.2139, 1.2.2140, 1.2.2141, 1.2.2142, 1.2.2143, 1.2.2144, 1.2.2145, 1.2.2146, 1.2.2147, 1.2.2148, 1.2.2149, 1.2.2150, 1.2.2151, 1.2.2152, 1.2.2153, 1.2.2154, 1.2.2155, 1.2.2156, 1.2.2157, 1.2.2158, 1.2.2159, 1.2.2160, 1.2.2161, 1.2.2162, 1.2.2163, 1.2.2164, 1.2.2165, 1.2.2166, 1.2.2167, 1.2.2168, 1.2.2169, 1.2.2170, 1.2.2171, 1.2.2172, 1.2.2173, 1.2.2174, 1.2.2175, 1.2.2176, 1.2.2177, 1.2.2178, 1.2.2179, 1.2.2180, 1.2.2181, 1.2.2182, 1.2.2183, 1.2.2184, 1.2.2185, 1.2.2186, 1.2.2187, 1.2.2188, 1.2.2189, 1.2.2190, 1.2.2191, 1.2.2192, 1.2.2193, 1.2.2194, 1.2.2195, 1.2.2196, 1.2.2197, 1.2.2198, 1.2.2199, 1.2.2200, 1.2.2201, 1.2.2202, 1.2.2203, 1.2.2204, 1.2.2205, 1.2.2206, 1.2.2207, 1.2.2208, 1.2.2209, 1.2.2210, 1.2.2211, 1.2.2212, 1.2.2213, 1.2.2214, 1.2.2215, 1.2.2216, 1.2.2217, 1.2.2218, 1.2.2219, 1.2.2220, 1.2.2221, 1.2.2222, 1.2.2223, 1.2.2224, 1.2.2225, 1.2.2226, 1.2.2227, 1.2.2228, 1.2.2229, 1.2.2230, 1.2.2231, 1.2.2232, 1.2.2233, 1.2.2234, 1.2.2235, 1.2.2236, 1.2.2237, 1.2.2238, 1.2.2239, 1.2.2240, 1.2.2241, 1.2.2242, 1.2.2243, 1.2.2244, 1.2.2245, 1.2.2246, 1.2.2247, 1.2.2248, 1.2.2249, 1.2.2250, 1.2.2251, 1.2.2252, 1.2.2253, 1.2.2254, 1.2.2255, 1.2.2256, 1.2.2257, 1.2.2258, 1.2.2259, 1.2.2260, 1.2.2261, 1.2.2262, 1.2.2263, 1.2.2264, 1.2.2265, 1.2.2266, 1.2.2267, 1.2.2268, 1.2.2269, 1.2.2270, 1.2.2271, 1.2.2272, 1.2.2273, 1.2.2274, 1.2.2275, 1.2.2276, 1.2.2277, 1.2.2278, 1.2.2279, 1.2.2280, 1.2.2281, 1.2.2282, 1.2.2283, 1.2.2284, 1.2.2285, 1.2.2286, 1.2.2287, 1.2.2288, 1.2.2289, 1.2.2290, 1.2.2291, 1.2.2292, 1.2.2293, 1.2.2294, 1.2.2295, 1.2.2296, 1.2.2297, 1.2.2298, 1.2.2299, 1.2.2300, 1.2.2301, 1.2.2302, 1.2.2303, 1.2.2304, 1.2.2305, 1.2.2306, 1.2.2307, 1.2.2308, 1.2.2309, 1.2.2310, 1.2.2311, 1.2.2312, 1.2.2313, 1.2.2314, 1.2.2315, 1.2.2316, 1.2.2317, 1.2.2318, 1.2.2319, 1.2.2320, 1.2.2321, 1.2.2322, 1.2.2323, 1.2.2324, 1.2.2325, 1.2.2326, 1.2.2327, 1.2.2328, 1.2.2329, 1.2.2330, 1.2.2331, 1.2.2332, 1.2.2333, 1.2.2334, 1.2.2335, 1.2.2336, 1.2.2337, 1.2.2338, 1.2.2339, 1.2.2340, 1.2.2341, 1.2.2342, 1.2.2343, 1.2.2344, 1.2.2345, 1.2.2346, 1.2.2347, 1.2.2348, 1.2.2349, 1.2.2350, 1.2.2351, 1.2.2352, 1.2.2353, 1.2.2354, 1.2.2355, 1.2.2356, 1.2.2357, 1.2.2358, 1.2.2359, 1.2.2360, 1.2.2361, 1.2.2362, 1.2.2363, 1.2.2364, 1.2.2365, 1.2.2366, 1.2.2367, 1.2.2368, 1.2.2369, 1.2.2370, 1.2.2371, 1.2.2372, 1.2.2373, 1.2.2374, 1.2.2375, 1.2.2376, 1.2.2377, 1.2.2378, 1.2.2379, 1.2.2380, 1.2.2381, 1.2.2382, 1.2.2383, 1.2.2384, 1.2.2385, 1.2.2386, 1.2.2387, 1.2.2388, 1.2.2389, 1.2.2390, 1.2.2391, 1.2.2392, 1.2.2393, 1.2.2394, 1.2.2395, 1.2.2396, 1.2.2397, 1.2.2398, 1.2.2399, 1.2.2400, 1.2.2401, 1.2.2402, 1.2.2403, 1.2.2404, 1.2.2405, 1.2.2406, 1.2.2407, 1.2.2408, 1.2.2409, 1.2.2410, 1.2.2411, 1.2.2412, 1.2.2413, 1.2.2414, 1.2.2415, 1.2.2416, 1.2.2417, 1.2.2418, 1.2.2419, 1.2.2420, 1.2.2421, 1.2.2422, 1.2.2423, 1.2.2424, 1.2.2425, 1.2.2426, 1.2.2427, 1.2.2428, 1.2.2429, 1.2.2430, 1.2.2431, 1.2.2432, 1.2.2433, 1.2.2434, 1.2.2435, 1.2.2436, 1.2.2437, 1.2.2438, 1.2.2439, 1.2.2440, 1.2.2441, 1.2.2442, 1.2.2443, 1.2.2444, 1.2.2445, 1.2.2446, 1.2.2447, 1.2.2448, 1.2.2449, 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1.2.2550, 1.2.2551, 1.2.2552, 1.2.2553, 1.2.2554, 1.2.255

RUGBY LEAGUE

Flawless Tait steers 12-man Widnes to record third title

By Keith Macklin

Bradford Northern 6
Widnes 28

SO COMPLETE was the dominance enjoyed by Widnes as they swept to a record third successive win in the Stones Bitter premiership at Old Trafford that they shunned off the dismissal of Paul Hulme in the fourth minute and played as devastatingly with 12 men as they had with 13.

Hulme's presence was not required as Bradford Northern, seeking to end the total domination of sides west of the Pennines, were never allowed to pose a serious threat. When Widnes led 10-0 at half-time, Northern might have entertained brief hopes of a comeback, but Widnes merely stepped up a gear in the opening minutes of the second half to run in three tries in the space of 10 minutes.

The Widnes victory was as complete as that achieved by Wigan at Wembley, and their supporters in the record 40,796 crowd were left wishing that Widnes could have met Wigan to in a contest to decide the team of the season, without such a match being overshadowed by injuries and the imminence of

Great Britain's summer tour to Papua New Guinea and New Zealand.

No one can challenge Wig- nes' place at the top after winning three trophies during the season, but Doug Laugh- ton, the Widnes coach, and his players would love to have a tilt at them after this sixth premiership win.

Northern had their tries, in the hard-working scrum half, Harkin, the strong-running forwards, Fairbank and Skerrett, and the speedy centre, Marchant, but they were quickly outclassed.

They did gain some solace from their excellent try, started by Harkin's pass on the half-way line, which set Fairbank free on a gallop which was supported by the try-scoring Marchant, Mumby, who had missed two reasonable penalty chances in the opening minutes, kicked an excellent goal.

Northern never gave up the fight, but they were not allowed into the game. The 12 men of Widnes were in no mood to relinquish their stranglehold.

Tait, now firmly established as Great Britain's No. 1 full back, had a faultless game and deservedly won his second premiership man of the match award.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Oldham revival shocks Hull

By Keith Macklin

Hull KR 29
Oldham 30

OLDHAM delivered the goods in the Stones Bitter second division premiership final at Old Trafford yesterday in the most remarkable manner. They were trailing 29-8 early in the second half and the totally dominant Hull Kingston Rovers were threatening to run up a huge score.

After looking a thoroughly beaten side, Oldham suddenly clicked, as the half backs, Ford and Brett Clark, began to work their magic behind the scrums; Fieldhouse, Netton and the substitute, Marilyn, began tearing huge holes in the Rovers defence, and the complexion of the game turned.

Rovers sagged as remarkably Oldham had found new life and power. There were times when the Rovers defence opened as wide as a tunnel for the suddenly rampant blues and white jerseys to tear through.

The Oldham supporters were ecstatic as five tries came in 27 minutes with Rovers powerless.

Ford, who was named man of the match, Henderson, Irving, Ruane and Marilyn scored the tries, and Oldham's comeback would have been even more impressive had four of the conversion kicks hit the target.

It was an amazing triumph for Oldham but Rovers must ask how the lost 29-8 lead, created by tries from Parker, Clark, Lyman and Harrison, plus four goals from Fletcher and a dropped goal

from Parker, at a stage when Parker and Bishop were playing the role which was eventually taken over by Ford and Brett Clark.

Before the game the Oldham coach, Tony Barrow, had said: "I want to win a trophy for those marvellous Oldham fans. They've been wonderful this season and they deserve something."

SCORERS: Hull KR: Triple Points (2), Clark, Lyman, Harrison, Gothic Fletcher (1); Try Scoring (4), Parker, Clark, Ford, Lord, Ford, Henderson, Irving, Ruane, Marilyn, Gothic, Paul, Hyde (2).

HULL KINGSTON ROVERS: D. L. Wilson (G. Clark, M. Fletcher, G. Austin, A. Sutcliffe, W. Parker, D. Clark, J. H. Jones, J. Irving); D. Nicolson, C. Sudell, D. Harrison, A. Thompson, P. Lyman.

OLDFIELD: D. Paul (sub: T. Marilyn); R. Irving, P. Fletcher, P. Parker, D. Lord, D. Ford, D. Hyatt (sub: K. Nearyman), A. Ross, J. Fieldhouse, P. Round, C. McAlister, P. Russell. Referee: R. Whifford.

ATHLETICS

Bannister milestone may fall

By David Powell

Athletics Correspondent

ROGER Bannister's four-minute mile in 1954 may have lasted as a world record for only 46 days but, 36 years later, his 3min 59.4sec time remains the track record at Iffley Road. The most famous record in athletics history is possibly enjoying its last week.

Next Saturday, Simon Mugleston, the former European junior 5,000 metres champion, Richard Nurkuri, the English cross-country champion, and Andrew Geddes, who ran a 3min 41.00sec 1,500 metres indoors last year, will attempt to beat the track record.

The trio are hoping to recapture the spirit of 1954 when the two Christopher, Brasher and Chataway, paced Bannister to his record. When the time was given, the announcer's voice was drowned by cheering once he began: "The time is three..."

Should the record fall, the split times are likely to be more consistent. Bannister's lap times were 57.5sec, 60.7, 62.3 and 58.9. Today's athletes are better attuned to pace judgement.

The cinders that had Bannister sharpening his spikes and applying graphite to minimize the adhesion of ash are gone. Oxford University's Iffley Road has worn out one all-weather track and the record attempt is in celebration of another, laid at a cost of £250,000. The occasion Sir Roger, aged 61, now the master of the university's Pembroke College, said: "The annual match between the universities usually has 1,500 metres, but there have been invitation miles on it and I am astonished that my record still stands."

Haringey coast it with the reserves

By a Special Correspondent

THE Haringey team manager, Phil Green, did not have any words of comfort for the seven other clubs after the opening GRE British League first division match at Hendon on Saturday. This left Haringey winners by 21 points over Shafeshay Barnet and Belgrave Harriers, who finished equal second.

We should be able to field a full-strength team for the next match," he said after watching the north London club with the first team withdraw a dozen of its first-team regulars.

Last season a heavy defeat on the opening day of the season in similar circumstances cost Haringey the title they won in 1988. They could not make up the deficit on the winners and eventual champions, Birchfield Harriers, despite winning all three remaining fixtures.

It looked like history might repeat itself on Saturday as Haringey languished in fifth place for much of the contest. But they came strongly at the end and went to the front for the first time after six hours' competition following a series of high placings in the later events.

GRE LEAGUE RESULTS

FIRST DIVISION: (Hendon) Winsome: 100m L. Paul (Barry), 10.5sec; 200m Paul, 21.01; 400m B. White (Vernon), 48.8sec; 800m R. Williams (Barry), 1:59.2sec; 1,500m A. Lloyd (Balgrove), 3:49.05; 3,000m P. Evans (Balgrove), 14:01.65; 3,000m S. Brown (Shafeshay), 14:01.65; 3,000m 110m hurdles: J. Weston (Newham) and E. Scott (Shafeshay), 40.0sec; 3,000m 33.3m relay: B. Bergman, 41.07; 4 x 400m relay: Shafeshay, 3:21.05; 4 x 800m relay: Shafeshay, 8.00sec; 4 x 1,500m relay: Shafeshay, 15.05; 4 x 3,000m relay: Shafeshay, 36.40; 4 x 3,000m relay: Belgrave, 36.65.

SECOND DIVISION: (Morden Park) Winsome: 100m D. Clark (Creston Park), 11.0sec; 200m S. Lewis (Creston Park), 21.0sec; 400m K. Motay (Sala), 48.9sec; 800m 3.0sec; 1,500m D. Edwards (Belgrave), 4:32. Long jump: S. Tewari (Shafeshay), 6.00m; J. Hartfield (Shafeshay), 6.00m; 100m hurdles: J. Weston (Newham) and E. Scott (Shafeshay), 13.76; Discus: A. Ekuolu (Balgrove), 15.00m; Shot put: C. McNamee (Winsome and Essex), 6.05.

THIRD DIVISION: (Morden Park) Winsome: 100m P. Brown (Lancs), 51.57; 4 x 100m relay: Paul (Barry), 10.5sec; 200m Paul, 21.01; 400m B. White (Vernon), 48.8sec; 800m R. Williams (Barry), 1:59.2sec; 1,500m A. Lloyd (Balgrove), 3:49.05; 3,000m P. Evans (Balgrove), 14:01.65; 3,000m S. Brown (Shafeshay), 14:01.65; 3,000m 110m hurdles: J. Weston (Newham) and E. Scott (Shafeshay), 40.0sec; 3,000m 33.3m relay: B. Bergman, 41.07; 4 x 400m relay: Shafeshay, 3:21.05; 4 x 800m relay: Shafeshay, 8.00sec; 4 x 1,500m relay: Shafeshay, 15.05; 4 x 3,000m relay: Shafeshay, 36.40; 4 x 3,000m relay: Belgrave, 36.65.

MATCH RESULTS: First division: 1. Haringey, 330pts; 2. Shafeshay, 268; 3. Belgrave, 224; 4. Winsome, 180; 5. Creston Park, 147; 6. Shafeshay, 147; 7. Creston Park, 110; 8. Shafeshay, 107; 9. Winsome, 80; 10. Belgrave, 64; 11. Creston Park, 50; 12. Shafeshay, 45; 13. Winsome, 30; 14. Belgrave, 25; 15. Creston Park, 20; 16. Shafeshay, 15; 17. Winsome, 10; 18. Belgrave, 5.

SECOND DIVISION: (Morden Park) Winsome: 100m D. Clark (Creston Park), 11.0sec; 200m S. Lewis (Creston Park), 21.0sec; 400m K. Motay (Sala), 48.9sec; 800m 3.0sec; 1,500m D. Edwards (Belgrave), 4:32. Long jump: S. Tewari (Shafeshay), 6.00m; J. Hartfield (Shafeshay), 6.00m; 100m hurdles: J. Weston (Newham) and E. Scott (Shafeshay), 13.76; Discus: A. Ekuolu (Balgrove), 15.00m; Shot put: C. McNamee (Winsome and Essex), 6.05.

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Thomson Jones for profitable trip

By Mandarin

SOUTHERN trainers should have a profitable meeting at Hamilton Park today where I expect them to capture all six races on the South course.

Tim Thomson Jones, in his second season training from the Croft stables in Lambourn, can land a double with Blue Rhythm and Hear A Nightingale.

Last season, Thomson Jones's dexterity was fully tested when he managed to win two races with the fragile-legged Blue Rhythm from her three outings.

However, despite her problems, the five-year-old clearly has plenty of ability. This she showed when winning a 0-100 handicap at Salisbury by a neck from Gorytus Star. On that occasion Misty Eyes, one of her main rivals today, was a well-beaten sixth.

Hand In Glove does not

appear to be harshly treated by the handicapper in the Scottish Rife Handicap. Last season, the William Haggas-trained gelding showed plenty of ability in better company. If he produces the form that enabled him to finish second to Derab at Pontefract, he will



Tim Thomson Jones: set for double at Hamilton

take all the beating.

Michael Jarvis's decision to drop Gift Premium in class for the Lord Lydford Claiming Stakes looks significant. Or

his only outing, the colt ran a promising race when needing the run to finish seventh of 16 to Katzakova at Nottingham in good maiden contest.

The record-breaking Martin Pipe looks to have the answer to the Serpentine Selling Handicap with Miss Chalk at Windsor tonight. The Dominion filly will be having her first outing on the Flat for Pipe, but he may have failed to show his true form as the stable had been under a cloud at that time due to an outbreak of coughing.

Rod Millman, the former National Hunt jockey and assistant to Gerald Cottrell, can gain his third winner since taking out a licence this season with Charcoal Burner in the Whitechapel Handicap. Charcoal Burner, who was trained by Cottrell last season, gave evidence that he was coming to hand when fifth behind Further Flight at Bath.

For the map of the day, I side

with Al Damour in the Marina Developments Handicap. Last season, the Luca Cumani-trained colt showed considerable promise by finishing fifth beaten 1½ lengths to Belmez at Newmarket.

This season, I was rather disappointed with his performance at Newcastle where he again finished fifth to Local Derby. But he may have failed to show his true form as the stable had been under a cloud at that time due to an outbreak of coughing.

At Wolverhampton, Walter Swinburn and Michael Stoute can land the Rushton Maiden Fillies Stakes with Tasneem. On her only outing at Newmarket, she was the lesser fancied of the two Stone runners, but nevertheless showed plenty of ability to finish eighth behind Model Village.

At Ludlow, he had previously run fourth in a restricted race at the Ludlow before failing in a hunter chase at Carlisle.

Under Sophie Edwards, the trainer's daughter, he looked like the leading contender at Tytherington, ridden by Michael Hammond, but ran on gamely between the last two fences to win by a length.

Earlier at the meeting, my Saturday selection for the Times

WOLVERHAMPTON

Selections

By Mandarin

2.30 Dixon.
3.00 Kerry Boy.
3.30 Gin And Orange.
4.00 Thalib.
4.30 Tamise.
5.00 Decent.
5.30 Secret Waters.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.30 Desert Splendour.
3.00 Cosmic Dancer.
3.30 Niklas Angel.
4.00 Thalib.
4.30 Invitation Waltz (nap).
5.00 Burwood Harp.
5.30 Rock Face.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 PERSIAN DYNASTY.

Going: good to firm

2.30 EBF PENKIRIDGE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O colts & geldings: £2,280; 5f (6 runners)

1 (4) 3 CARFIELD LAD (Mars M Carr) G Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Hood —
2 (1) DESERT SPLENDOUR (N Philip) C Tindall 9-0 M Roberts —
3 (2) KADIMA (K Abdellah) C Tindall 9-0 M Roberts —
4 (5) 6 STONELEIGH ARSEY (G Parson) R Hollinshead 9-0 W J Stoute —
5 (6) WHIPPERS DELIGHT (Sides Riding) J Berry 9-0 G Duffield —
BETTING: 7-4 Dixon, 5-2 Carfield Lad, 5-1 Whippers Delight, 13-2 Stonelake Abbey, 10-1 Desert Splendour, Highland Magic.

1989: WAKE UP 9-0 J Reid (9-1 fav) 6 ran

FORM FOCUS CARFIELD LAD (HIGHLAND MAGIC had not come to himself when the competition was 2nd when beaten 10 lengths by the useful Timesless Times of speed, by Dixie Land Stand out of Cosmic Tiger.) Selection: STONELEIGH ARSEY

10-1 Triton, 5-2 Carfield Lad, 5-1 Whippers Delight, 13-2 Stonelake Abbey, 10-1 Desert Splendour, Highland Magic.

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GOLF

Dark-horse Swede repels Woosnam's ailing challenge

From John Hennessy, Brussels

OVE Selberg, an affable Swede now living in Richmond, Surrey, held off a finally lackluster challenge from Ian Woosnam to win the Belgian Open at Royal Waterloo yesterday. A final round of 71, one under par, carried him to a total of 272, four shots ahead of the Welshman, who closed with a 72.

Selberg, whose prize was £41,660, prolonged the drought that has afflicted British golfers on the European tour this year. There have been only two victories for the United Kingdom in the 13 tournaments played, the last, by Woosnam, being at the beginning of March. Given that Woosnam has played only six times and Faldo only three, this is a disappointing development.

It is equally puzzling that a player who can win as comfortably as Selberg did yesterday could have entered the tournament with such modest pretensions. In his eight previous tournaments he had survived the half-way cut only twice and had played so

poorly in these that he had won only £2,172 for thirteen place at Las Brisas and 1978 for 56th place at Cannes.

If, in the end, Selberg won handsomely enough, it had not looked like that to start with. He had begun the day five shots ahead of Woosnam, with no one else within striking distance; after five holes his lead had shrunk to two.

Even then, the two players could quite easily have been standing on the sixth tee on level terms. Twice the Swede had to hole good single putts for par, while Woosnam was missing birdies by an agonizing whisker.

Woosnam was moving with a hint of a hobble because of an ailing hip. "It was sore to start with, but as I got on it seemed to loosen. Perhaps it would have been better had it not done so," he said, contemplating a card which took him out in 34 and brought him home in 36.

A Swedish victory seemed improbable during those opening holes. "I played so badly at the start that it came to the point where I didn't

know what was going to happen," he said.

What did happen was that he missed every fairway in the first six holes and four of the greens. Adding two dropped shots to Woosnam's birdie three at the 4th he was now only two ahead with a long way to go.

A putt of 25 feet won back a stroke at the 7th, but that went at the next, where he missed yet another fairway and found a bunker with his recovery.

A fierce Welsh hook off the tenth tee put Selberg three ahead again and he seemed now to be in better heart. The crucial hole was the 13th, where Woosnam took a penalty drop from water, an advantage the Swede rammed home with a two at the short 14th from 15 feet. That was virtually the end.

Woosnam's score, £27,760, took him further ahead in the Volvo Order of Merit. His total of £142,055 is £29,491 ahead of Mark McNulty in second place.

FINAL LEADING SCORES (GB or Ireland unless stated): 272: O Selberg (Swed), 68, 66, 67, 71; 276: Woosnam (Welsh), 70, 70, 70, 70; 277: I Woosnam (Welsh), 69, 68, 69, 71; 278: J-M Gelin (Fra), 70, 71, 71, 70; G Turner, 68, 74, 70, 72; 282: M Miller, 68, 72, 74, 74; R Hartnett, 70, 74, 76; C Pochet, 70, 74, 75, 76; 283: D Spence, 68, 76, 78, 77; 284: W Mayes (US), 74, 70, 69, 71; P Carman, 69, 70, 71, 71; G Rutter, 71, 73, 73, 73; 285: J Turner, 69, 74, 75, 76; 286: D Williams, 74, 69, 73, 70; G Brand, 74, 75, 79, 72; P Rivero (Spa), 72, 72, 71; 287: Henderson (Gt Brth), 75, 75, 75, 75; 288: J McEwan, 75, 75, 75, 75; 289: J Bowes (Eng), 70, 73, 75, 75; 290: V Singh (Pak), 74, 71, 74, 71; 291: B Lane, 71, 73, 73, 73; 292: S Stegeman, 74, 74, 75, 75; 293: M Brooks (Welsh), 70, 70, 72, 72; 294: F Coetzee (SA), 68, 74, 75, 75; 295: D Pocock (73, 73, 74); 296: P Jackson, 75, 72, 73, 73; 297: J Haskins (Eng), 75, 75, 76, 76; 298: N Morgan (75, 75, 76, 76); 299: J Wesson (75, 75, 76, 76); 300: P Azinger (74, 73, 73, 73); 301: M White (79, 70, 72, 72); 302: R Keween (74, 73, 74); 303: H Irwin (73, 74, 74); 304: L

Norman wins without playing final round

GREG Norman, of Australia, recorded his 59th tournament victory when he won The Memorial at Muirfield Village yesterday, after the final round was washed out following heavy rain and the event declared a 34-hole contest (a Special Correspondent writes).

This gave Norman, aged 35, a one-stroke victory over Payne Stewart, of the United States, with an even-par 216 total after rounds of 73, 74, 69.

Norman came from five strokes behind with just five holes to play to snatch his third victory on the American tour. He finished strongly with two birdies and three pars on Sat-

Johnson lifts the Cup and goes top

From Patricia Davies, Paris

It has been a long time since Trish Johnson was No. 1 at the US Women's Open. She put three years of frustration behind her with victory in the Heemeyer Cup at St. Germain and moved to the top of the Woolmark Order of Merit.

It is likely to be a brief stay, for the young Englishwoman was due to leave the States today and will not be back in Europe until the Wentworth British Open in August, but she will not mind that. It was the winning that mattered and the nearly forgotten joy of seeing her name at the top of the leaderboard. Not to mention the first prize of 135,000 francs, which translated into a very handy £15,000.

Lucky, Rothmans like most modern marxists, is fitted with a false bow for just such an eventuality. The damage also appears to have had a negligible effect on the yacht's speed. Yesterday Rothmans averaged 12.9 knots between satellite sweep, the fastest in the fleet, to close the gap to 125 miles on the New Zealand ketches. When the crew set out from Georgetown, South Carolina, a week ago after putting in to repair their rig, the distance, according to Smith, was 289 miles.

Soquatoe British Defender, the Joint Services entry skippered by Commander Colin Watkins, is also making remarkable speed, averaging 11.4 knots, considering that she has cut into two metal objects because it has caught the bow.

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The division-three leaders, L'Espresso de Liberte, Rucanor Sport and Maiden are also enjoying the stronger winds. Tracy Edwards and her all-women crew, who slipped back to third after hitting a whale last week, continued to trail their French rivals by 60 miles.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (GB and Ireland unless stated): 1. Fisher and Paykel (74, Dalton, NZ), 72, 73, 71, 73; 2. The Card (Fitzgerald and Baker, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 3. The Ark (Neville and Fotheringham, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 4. Rothmans (Rothmans and Portman, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 5. L'Espresso (Edwards and Maiden, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 6. Maiden (Edwards and Fotheringham, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 7. D'Amico (D'Amico and Portman, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 8. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 9. Maiden (Maiden and Fotheringham, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 10. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 11. Maiden (Maiden and Fotheringham, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 12. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 13. Maiden (Maiden and Fotheringham, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 14. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 15. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 16. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 17. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 18. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 19. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 20. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 21. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 22. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 23. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 24. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 25. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 26. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 27. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 28. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 29. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 30. Fisher and Paykel (Fisher and Paykel, NZ), 72, 73, 72, 72; 31. 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